

MOUTH OF THE RIVER

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL DURHAM, NH 03824 ISSUE TWO DECEMBER 10, 2013



THE NEW BRITISH INVASION

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Dear Readers,

We are very excited to talk about the changes that you are about to witness in the Mouth of the River Newspaper. Not only are our physical copies of the newspaper revamped in terms of content and creativity, the website, Facebook, and Twitter page are all up to date with what you would expect from a modern news organization.

Our twitter page, (**@mornewspaper**), is now completely different from years previous. We are live tweeting major sports games, posting new articles about events happening in our community, announcing contests and posting information about the newspaper itself. Twitter has become a very valued tool to journalists around the world, so it only makes sense that Mouth of the River, (the most powerful newspaper in ORHS), uses it to its full advantage.

Facebook has become something that our newspaper thrives on to get feedback and to announce important events pertaining to Mouth of the River. We are using social media to the best of its ability to help promote our newspaper as well as to inform the public. With over 200 likes on Facebook and nearly 100 followers on Twitter, Mouth of the River's social media content has become more popular than ever.

Our online presence is something we take pride in. Attention to aesthetics and layout is equally as important to us as the actual content. After many changes and thorough experimentation, we hope our website is accessible, convenient, and aesthetically pleasing. But above all, we hope our presence online can bring our writing and content to new people, in a way that sparks and refreshes the look of Mouth of the River.

The mobile and desktop versions of the website feature an easy to understand interface along with a clean and elegant design for each of the articles. The website is the perfect place to go to when you want to read any of the issues that came out this year or to stay informed with live, new articles posted every week. With more than 1000 views on our website so far, it has been a huge success and a welcoming paperless alternative to our standard paper copy.

Lastly, we hope the stories in this issue are interesting and compelling. No matter if you carefully read each article, or simply flip (or scroll) through the pages, we're glad that you're looking at it. Even if it just serves as company to your coffee (or toilet).

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FOOD PANTRIES



Kirsten Weiker
News Writer

Could you imagine having the responsibility of feeding 127,000 individuals? Well according to the New Hampshire Food Bank association that is what the food banks across the state of New Hampshire have to do. There are approximately that many men, women, and children that depend on their local food banks to sustain their everyday life in these hard times. But what happens when that number suddenly increases?

Run through the Community Church, the Newmarket food pantry on average serves between 20 to 25 households per week, consisting of families, couples, and singles. Each person leaves with about \$30 worth of food a day. That eventually adds up to about \$900 to \$1200 a week. This means that the Newmarket food Pantry requires around \$50,000 a year to provide for their communities. Hitting a little closer to home, the Saint Thomas More Food Pantry in Durham NH has about the same numbers as the Newmarket food bank. They too are part of the New Hampshire food bank association, but also have private funds and community help.

According to the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) as of November first, 2013 social services such as food stamps went through major cuts. They were reduced by about five percent for all 47.7 million Americans that use the assistance. To put that in perspective, a family of three to four on food stamps will be given 36 dollars less a month. This drop also causes people to become "unqualified" because there isn't enough money to serve them. This pushes those people to the very few resources they have left, one of them being the local food pantries. "It's hard and quite frankly embarrassing because I have kids in the district and friends of mine volunteer here to serve me... But I am very thankful for all that they do and the confidentiality of it all," a mother of two that uses the food bank said.

Both Kathy Harter of the Newmarket food pantry and Cynthia Racic of Saint Thomas More food bank expect to get an increase of numbers partly due to the cuts and qualifications for food stamps. "I believe it will be like a trickle effect, not all at once," Harter said. Racic added that even though the food stamp cuts are a huge

"I think the saddest thing for me is when people think that their few items will not make a difference... when it fact they make a huge difference."

-Kathy Harter

"...But I am very thankful for all that they do and the confidentiality of it all,"

-Participant of the Durham Food Bank

contributor, the loss of jobs in the area also factors into the increase of numbers using the food banks.

Harter and Racic could not stress enough the importance of community help. "Our Food pantry has been focusing on the community and food drives," Harter explained. Racic also said that St. Thomas more has also been focusing on the drives and donations provided from the community. "The church gives the pantry a small budget of funds to purchase food, but we rely a great deal on individual donations of food and money as well as food drives. We are

also always looking for volunteers to help out with their time - there are many different opportunities available," Said Racic.

"I think the saddest thing for me is when people think that their few items will not make a difference... when it fact they make a huge difference," Harter said.



Papers like this are scattered around town and schools in both Newmarket and (different ones) for Saint Thomas More



Newmarket Food Pantry Shelves, as can be seen on their Facebook Page

SALSA



Sam Colby
News Writer

Some may have noticed the vacant space that previously was Momma Mac and More. This space however, is now the location of Salsa. Salsa, a restaurant combining Mexican cuisine and local seafood has come to Durham.

Prior to the opening, word of mouth spread news of the restaurant. The opening, it seemed, was greatly anticipated by many. Family owned and operated, the restaurant was a combination of influences from Heidy Hebert and her husband Justin. "The idea was formed because we own a seafood restaurant," explained Heidy Hebert. The seafood restaurant which she referred to, is the couple's other business, called Justin's Seafood Hut, in Rye. Hebert explained that the restaurant will use all local fish in their fish tacos and other seafood dishes. "My husband's family has owned Seaport Fish, which is a whole sale fish market that retails to over 150 restaurants in Portsmouth," said Hebert. "I'm Hispanic and my husband is one hundred percent Italian, so we were trying to fuse to things together with his knowledge of seafood as well," explained Hebert, giving insight to the idea behind the restaurant. Salsa, which opened in November, is almost an "assembly line" as Hebert explained. The restaurant is laid out in a way that people can go up to the bar and choose all the ingredients that go into their burrito, taco, quesadilla, or whatever they choose. Heber said "This is an extension of our culture."

A new business in the area will of course affect surrounding businesses as well. Paul Eja, owner of Pauly's Pockets on Main



The counter at Salsa

Street (directly across from Salsa) shared some knowledge about owning a business. "For a small business owner in Durham, for now, it's a tough time," explained Eja. He added "Competition is growing." However the way Eja sees it, future for Salsa is looking good already. "I think it will do well, because it's something different. That's what makes me a success in this town, when I came here 17 years ago, I did something no one has," said Eja.

Demand for a restaurant like Salsa seemed to be quite high, even before it opened. Oyster River High School Sophomore Isabelle Todd expects the restaurant to be popular. "I think it will do well because we don't have anything like that around here," said Todd. She also added "I'd say a lot of kids are excited about it coming."

Of course the majority of Durham residents are not high school students, and much of the demand for small business comes from an older demographic; college students. UNH Junior and Pauly's Pockets employee Amber Glassman said the restaurant was actually not frequently talked about, prior to its opening. "I have not

heard a lot of college students know about the restaurant," said Glassman. Although she added "I do however think a burrito place would be very successful. College students are looking for food that is simple and can be taken on the go." Glassman said that despite the seemingly endless food options available to UNH students, she believes Salsa will succeed.

"I feel like Mexican themed food is an all-time favorite among college aged students, I feel like if the price is right, it will be successful," said Thomas Caito. Caito, a UNH student and fellow Pauly's Pockets employee also has valid knowledge to speak on the small businesses of Durham. "Salsa didn't really advertise much, although there was a lot of talk from the DHOP people who came to Pauly's," said Caito. Speaking about the competition, Caito added "There is already a Mexican restaurant down the street, but that's more of an inconvenient location. It should do well because it doesn't have a lot of competition."

If you haven't gotten the chance to visit Salsa, put it on your list. The food is fresh and it's a unique addition to Durham.

GREEN TEAM



Kirsten Weiker
News Writer

though the reality of it all is that we couldn't live without them. Our current struggle is how we are going to preserve these necessities, and that's where the green team comes in.

The green team was introduced this year to ORHS environmental science classes in hopes to start a club focused on preserving Mother Nature and providing the community with ways to help. Run by Katie Hanlon and Emily Spognardi, the Green Team is a

If soil was taken out of your life, what would you have left? What about if clean water wasn't available to you? Many people overlook these little everyday things even

"You guys just being advocates for the [Green Team] really helps!" - Jon Bromley

subsection of the Oyster River Sustainability Committee. "Our plan is to be a model Green Team for the school, because it's the first one Oyster River has had," Hanlon said. Hanlon went on to talk about the Mr. Fox Composting group, which is one of the main participants with the Green Team. "They focus on composting and reducing landfills, which is what we are currently focusing on promoting," exclaims Hanlon. Examples of the Green Team's current efforts can be seen in ORHS's cafeteria, above the trash cans.

During their meetings, the Green Team discusses numerous ways to grab the attention of kids in the school to make them notice (Continued on page 8)



Emily Spognardi's Trifold in the Cafe

RELAY FOR LIFE

The Hard Work Your Fellow Students Do for Cancer



Sadie Moore
News Writer

\$8,700 was cumulatively raised by oyster river students in 2012-2013 for cancer research. These students are part of the organization Relay for Life run at the high school. They get together and plan and organize popular fundraisers like the prom fashion show. In June the money the raised goes to the American Cancer Society.

Bake sales, car washes, and restaurant fundraisers are also held to raise money for relay for life. Some of the restaurants are Margaritas, Applebee's, Buffalo Wild Wings, and FroYo World. They raise money all school year and then in June they donate it to the American Cancer Society. To celebrate in the end they do laps around the field. "The Luminaria is a portion of the relay event where people mourn the losses of those who have been taken by cancer. The survivor lap is a portion of the relay event where cancer survivors and their caregivers take a lap around the track and are appreciated by the community," explains Ryan Kerrigan, the coordinator in charge of luminaries and survivors. Every hour there is a different theme to the laps. Team members can rest while one does the walking. Says coordinator Erika Ireland.

This is Oyster Rivers 11th year hosting Relay for Life. This year there are 17



Coordinators Payal Nanda, Erika Ireland, and Ryan Kerrigan

"It's a really fun and awesome experience doing something good for other people. A lot of fun comes out of the fundraisers and activities we do as a group!" says Tenney an enthusiastic member. All of the fundraisers are brainstormed, organized, and put on by the Relay for life participants. Groups do individual things like bake sales or working the concession stand at sports games.



Last year's prom fashion show (Photo Credit: Alexander Taylor)

teams so far of about ten students each. Every team has a leader who acts as the captain and organizes the team. The responsibility of the team is to fundraise for each person as well as help with the big group fundraisers. Everyone meets twice a month and team captains have separate monthly meetings with the coordinators. Team captains work as a medium between members and coordinators.

Prom fashion show: Friday, March 21st 2014 in the Auditorium
The Relay: Saturday, May 17th 2014 at ORHS
Applebee's Fundraiser- May 8th

vice advisor Susan Wilkinson. One group, The Happy Feet, is embracing the task of fundraisers at full force. "They are just going to town!" Wilkinson

says. They have already worked the concession stand at a boys soccer game where some of the proceeds went to their team. "We are planning on having a fundraiser at Libby's, open mike and food. 10% on the money goes

"The relay symbolizes that cancer never sleeps."
-Erika Ireland

to our team for relay for life. Also we are going to be having a dance at the oyster river middle school, all the money raised there will go toward relay for life," explains team captain Samantha Tenney. They are also playing with the idea of a hypnotist show.

This is senior Ryan Kerrigan's second year taking part in Relay for Life. He explained that he "learned a lot about work ethic, because as a coordinator I have to do certain things by certain times otherwise we are out of luck."

Payal Nanda is the coordinator of registration and of their website. "If you go on the site you will find information about relay, our event specifically, the different teams, and it's completely open to the public. However there are also ways within the site to just communicate with each other,"

Nanda explains. The website you can be accessed at relayforlife.org/oysterrivernh. You can see interesting things like how much each team has raised and who the top donors and participants are. It gives the dates of the

upcoming fundraisers as well. The deadline for registering is Friday, January 17th.



UNEQUAL ENROLLEMENT



Alex Morrell
Guest News Writer

Tension has been high during the past few months throughout the Oyster River community.

The two Kindergarten through fourth grade (K-4) elementary schools, Mast Way and Moharimet, have a severely unequal enrollment. This imbalance has caused a headache for all as the Oyster River Cooperative School District tries to come up with the best solution. As of November 20th, there are two models that the board is concentrating on: managed enrollment and changing the configuration of the two schools to a Kindergarten through 2nd grade (K-2) school and a 3rd grade through 4th grade (3-4) school.

Currently, the elementary schools have a differential of 115 students. Moharimet's enrollment of 407 students to Mast Way's enrollment of 292 students has affected the education, safety, and equity of both schools. Since both are excellent schools, the controversy lies in the thought of what is best for the kids.

Initially, the two possible solutions were to: one, redefine bus routes, also referred to

The new proposal, titled "managed enrollment," allows for all children currently at a given school, along with their younger siblings, to complete elementary school at that school. Future kindergarteners would be assigned to a school based on space at each school. Same as the initial K-2 and 3-5 plan, this solution would eliminate the modular classrooms currently at Moharimet in 2016 and immediately add Extended Resource rooms that were eliminated in 2013. The planned addition to the Moharimet cafeteria solves the conflict of the lunchroom and gymnasium being the same space. This proposal also allows for all day kindergarten by 2017.

The initial K-2 and 3-5 grade split plan is still on the table, with some minor tweaks. Initially, the idea was to split the schools and build up to adding fifth grade back into the elementary school level; this is no longer an option.

Most of the elementary schools' staff initially stood behind option one: redraw bus routes. This option is now off the table, as the board weighed all of the factors in this solution to realize it would not be operational. With this option, both elementary schools would continue to be K-4 schools with the exception that the district lines would be redrawn, making 66 students transfer from Moharimet to Mast Way.

member Thomas Newkirk. "I think that both communities of both schools really do love those schools but it just generated a fire storm. We either had to modify proposals [or] look for new proposals because it seemed like both original proposals as presented weren't going to fly."

The initial option two, reconfiguring the two schools into a K-2 school and a 3-5 school provided each school with a stronger focus on early childhood development. This eliminated the modular building that currently houses two classrooms that there is no space for in the main building of Moharimet. This option also allowed for the fifth grade to move back down to the elementary school level. The cons to this option were that there would no longer be the younger/older student mentors, children within families would be split between schools, and two additional regular bus routes would have to be added to the district. "I would say that by a large margin my idea is not the popular idea," says Oyster River School District Superintendent Jim Morse, the man who proposed the idea of repurposing both schools into one K-2 and one 3-5 school. "People have generally gravitated toward what we always do which is to move the buses," he says referring to the idea of redrawing bus lines. "The problem with mov-

Photo Credit: Sam Colby



Moharimet elementary school playground.

as strict redistricting, or two, change the grade configuration of the two schools to one K-2 school and one 3-5 school. As a community, it was decided that both of these proposals as is would not be effective. The problem with the K-2 and 3-5 grade split plan was that it created unnecessary school transition, split families and siblings between both schools, and made overcrowding at Moharimet in the near future worse. Also, all day kindergarten could not be achieved.

"We see many benefits, including academic benefits, of allowing students to be in one school with a familiar set of educators for a five year span. Having fewer transitions, particularly for younger kids, generates benefits for children," states Moharimet fourth grade teacher Matthew VanLedtje. Although liked by many, a downside to this option is that families who have grown to know and love one elementary school may be forced to transfer to the other. "That created all kinds of friction," says school board

ing the buses is that you really have to stay on top of it and unfortunately it has been over ten years since the district has looked at rerouting buses," Morse adds.

So which option is the best option? Each and every person has their own thoughts on the topic. Mast Way nurse Katherine Moore emphasized the fact that "no matter what decision is made the teachers and staff will (continued on the next page).

INTERACT CLUB



Sam Colby
News Writer

Community service is something that many students do not fully appreciate. However Interact Club strives to work for their community to serve peers and community members. Students in the club work hard and appreciate their own achievements.

Currently advised by Oyster River High School Dean of Faculty, Sara Wotton, the club works in conjunction with the Durham Rotary. "Interact is a community and international service club" explains Wotton. As the concept may seem confusing to some, the Durham Rotary basically extends its projects to high school students through interact club. "The support for the club comes from the Rotary, we participate in things, whether it's to raise funds, or in this case gathering crutches and things to send to Africa," explains Wotton, mentioning one of the club's current projects. "All you have to do is come to a meeting," says Wotton, explaining the simplicity of Interact Club. Wotton also explains, "I'm basically the advisor, I organize and hold meetings and get the group together."

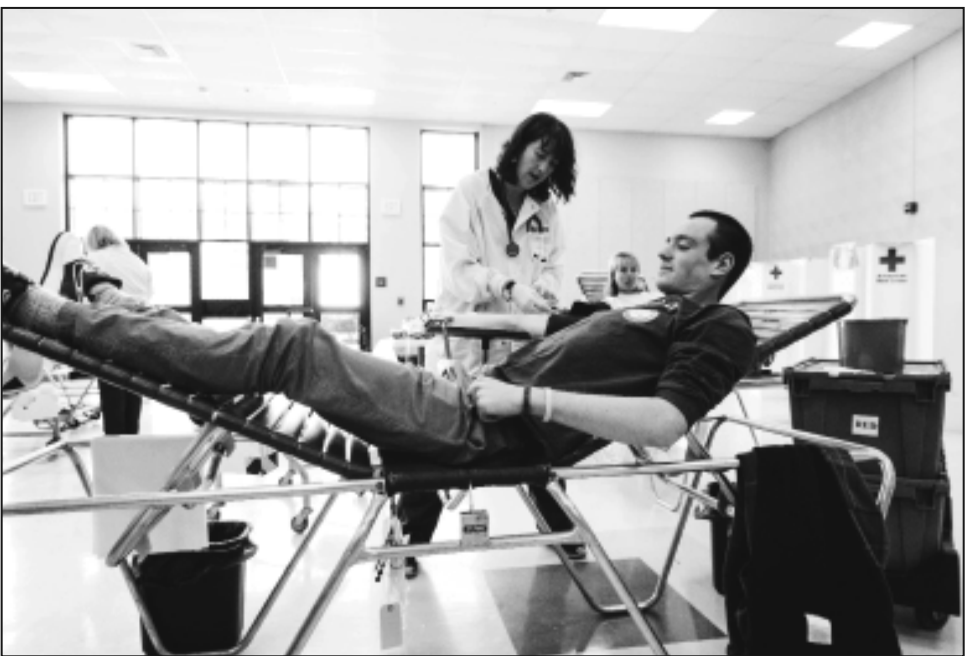
Although the club is advised by Wotton, the motivation and leadership comes from within the student body. Two students in particular, Amy Halstead and Kristen Sack took a leadership role for Interact Club. "I knew

two students who wanted to take a leadership role, which is key for this type of thing," says Wotton. Oyster River High School Junior and Interact Club leader Kristen Sack says "I joined the club because I really love doing community service and wanted to do a bunch of projects this year."

"You benefit by appreciating your own hard work" - Bryce Schultz



Interact advisor, Sara Wotton



Colby Runk participating in the blood drive, put on by Interact Club

Sack also adds "we just finished selling breast cancer pins and we did trick or treat for hunger, where on Halloween night we collected canned foods instead of candy; it was very successful."

The leadership of Sack and Halstead is what motivates 15 other students within the club. Among these students is Oyster River High School Junior Peter Dubois. Dubois says he joined the club because "It's a good source for extracurricular community service." Dubois also adds that "It's great if you're trying to join New Hampshire Scholars, it's a way to get your service hours." The motivational selfless attitude of the club is reflected in their gratification, or as Dubois explains; "You benefit by appreciating your own hard work." Bryce Schultz, also a Junior at ORHS and member of Interact Club shares similar opinions in regards to the club's goal. "Interact club is a group of Oyster River students whose main focus is to help people

in need." He also adds "So far our main focus has been raising money to donate to the Red Cross."

However Interact Club may be one of the lesser known clubs. But not participating in Interact Club doesn't mean you can't do community service on your own time. Colby Runk, Senior at ORHS says he's actually never heard of Interact Club. "I've never heard of it, ever," says Runk. However, Runk's busy schedule with a steady job and soccer prevent him from attending Interact Club, but he shares the positive helping attitude that Interact Club promotes. Runk actually does community service on his own time. "I really don't have any spare time, but I try to do community service on my own time when I can," says Runk. He elaborates; "I like doing community service that I have a connection to, like Kathy For A Cure."

If you have the time and love helping others, Interact Club is for you. With no huge commitments attached, Interact Club is very inviting and welcoming to new members, or busier students such as Runk may opt to help the community on their own accord. No matter your situation, there is something to be said for the club's positive attitude and the work they do.

Unequal Enrollment Continued From Page 6

continue to teach and serve kids well. I have felt fortunate working in this school system where there are many bright, motivated, and caring educators."

As of November 20th 2013, there have been five meetings that have had a big impact on the decision making process. On Wednesday October 16th, there was a public forum in the Oyster River High School (ORHS) auditorium where the school board explained the issues at hand. Each elementary schools' staff wrote a letter that was read at the forum explaining their viewpoints. There was

certainly a big push for the redrawing of bus routes from the public at this forum. At the school board meeting on Wednesday October 23rd, many parents who would be affected by the strict redistricting stood up and spoke. Dr. Christie Beemer, mother of a second grader at Moharimet, spoke at the school board meeting on the 23rd on behalf of her along with parts of her neighborhood by saying "it was by pure chance I even discovered that our neighborhood would be completely divided, even down to my block, being split into two...My objection is not based on the

quality of Mast Way compared to Moharimet although I would like to note that these comparisons are being made in our community. The K-2/3-5 plan would fix the problem that this issue has certainly cast some light upon. I understand the board's sensitivity to [the] transitioning of students but I believe that this is not an appropriate argument here."

The school board has yet to reach a final decision, as they are still trying to weigh in all options and possibilities to decide what is best for the children.



BLOCKED APPLICATIONS

What's with this Network?



Brenna Walczak
Guest News Writer

guys just being advocates for the [Green Team] really helps!" Bromley said.

The Green Team meets every block Thursday in Mr. Bromley's classroom (L253) during office hours at the end of the day. "I check my phone at least 10 times a day," said senior Emily Coughlin. Oyster River High School has slowly been forming into a more technology driven school with the new iPads and the Smart Boards popping up in classrooms. When the school updated the Wi-Fi system over the summer and began blocking most of Oyster River students' favorite applications like Vine, Instagram, parts of Twitter, and Tumblr (etc.), many people were vocal with each other about the changes.

Blocking of applications was merely a technical error. After addressing the school's Director of IT Joshua Olstad about the issues students were having he said, "To be honest with you this is the first time I have heard anything about applications being blocked."

The student body still wanted to know why they couldn't access their apps. After some research and communication with Mr. Olstad, there is now a clearer way to answer more of the frequently asked questions about why the school has blocked the applications. Believe it or not these apps have always been blocked. The reason why the student body previously had access to the apps over the Wi-Fi was because of the way the network was set up. Last year if you signed onto the Wi-Fi with your phone or other mobile device as soon as you stopped scrolling through twitter or surfing the Web you would automatically be signed off the network and disconnected to the Wi-Fi. Many students noticed at the beginning of this year that when they logged on to the Wi-Fi they would actually stay logged on to the network for days before having to sign in again. Since the students phones were so frequent-

ly logged on and off the network didn't have a long enough period to block the apps from use. So when the Wi-Fi was upgraded and fully came into play, all of the apps stopped working because of the continual connection with the network.

The best way to get around this dilemma is simple; you could put away your cell phone and pay attention to your teacher! Since we all know that is unlikely you could also try disconnecting your phone from the Wi-Fi. This may cause it to run slower and use your data but you will have full access to all of the phone's applications. This also poses a problem to those of you who use an iPod or iPad with the schools' Wi-Fi because you cannot access the internet without data. Sadly it does not look like they will be getting rid of the blocks any day soon so you will sadly have to go the seven hour school day without them. "It's ridiculous," says junior Catlin Lasher, "There's ways around it, so why even bother implementing it in the first place?"

Although the school wishes to keep its students safe by blocking all of these websites senior Morgan Smith thinks differently, "I think that our school is limiting our ability to do research sometimes. We need



An error sign that could occur while using a blocked app. (Photo credit to Sam Colby)

access some blogs and apps to do our everyday tasks." Most time when researching at the school, you will come to a screen saying you do not have permission to access what is on that web page. With these blocks it makes it more difficult for the students who do not have access to computers at home to do the full research that they may need to do to complete a project. Should the school be obligated to allow us to see the material used for research that is being blocked? Or do they have a right to block it? What should be the next step for the Oyster River student body in the search for unblocked applications?

To learn more about whether phone usage should be allowed in class check out Alyssa Bangrazi's article on texting in class called "Who Are You Texting More than Fifty Times a Day?" on page 23.

Green Team Continued From Page 4

and realise the impact they could make in our area. "We need to do something more than a few posters in the lunch room," Sophie Webb, junior at than a few posters in the lunch room,"

Sophie Webb, junior at Oyster River High School and green team member said at one of the meetings. This one point brought in multiple ideas, things like putting new lids on trash cans and compost-

ing bins, bigger but simple signs to follow, or paintings on the walls behind the waste bins. Another goal of the Green Team is to garden, and produce fresh food for the cafeteria. "In the spring we'll try to improve the gardens and hopefully get more fresh produce," Spognardi said.

The Green Team is currently made up of 12 students; Abby Colby, Sophie Webb, Eliza Balch, Alec Czepiel, Kai Forcey-Rodriguez, James Tuliano, Claire McCarthy,

Elizabeth Cilia, Lauren Sullivan, Katelin Lawrence, Laurel Gibson, and Sana Ashraf. Don't hesitate, they always have room for more! "You guys just being advocates for the [Green Team] really helps!" Bromley said.

The Green Team meets every block Thursday in Mr. Bromley's classroom (L253) during office hours at the end of the day.



BEFORE THEY WERE TEACHERS...

Was McCann Actually a Superhero?



*Editor In-Chief
Matthew Segil*

Oyster River High School is a school built on the back of hardworking educators doing their best to give students a good academic experience. Would you be surprised to learn that not all of these hardworking educators always desired their current positions? What If I told you that Assistant Principal Mike McCann served in the Army? What If I told you Video Production teacher Kathleen Young is a close personal friend of Fritz Weatherbee! All this and more waits to be unveiled as a closer look is taken at Oyster River's staff.

In the realm of real jobs and exciting footage, video editing/production teacher Kathleen Young had some interesting escapades before moving into the classroom. Starting out as an intern at New Hampshire Public Television (NHPTV) Young made her way up the ladder. "I was a producer and director at NHPTV for around 12 years," says Young.

Coming out of her time at NHPTV, Young began to dabble in making documentaries and freelance editing. Working at such venues as the Boston Garden, Gillette Stadium and Fenway Park Young saw many of the greats in action. During one game at Fenway she met Johnny Damon, Stephen King, and Ben Affleck. While filming for a Jimmy Fund meeting they needed someone to set up assorted microphones and Young was the go to person.

As Young was setting up the microphone for King they got into a brief and humorous conversation. "Watch this," said King as he made the Aflac insurance duck

noise and then promptly looked away. After several repetitions and a suitably confused Affleck, Young finished the rigging and retreated to a safe distance. Encounters like this were not so out of the ordinary for Young during this time in her career.

In fact if meeting famous people was a job Young had several years of steady employment. After her encounter at Fenway Young worked with New Hampshire legend Fritz Weatherbee. Weatherbee, the host of New Hampshire Chronicle, became a friend of Young's during the filming of the show. "He's a funny guy, and we became close friends," says Young promising that Weatherbee is capable of telling stories that deviate from "fascinating" historical events. "We're still really good friends" Young continues saying that Weatherbee even taught her son how to video edit!

Between working sports games, as a freelance editor/producer, and filming documentaries odd hours found incongruent edges were family life met. Becoming a mother was a large part of Young's decision to find more stable work hours and still do what she loved to do. Although Young may seem like just another column holding up Oyster River's academic structure she came to the school a mere 4 years ago! Although new to the game Young says "now I love working with my students". So for all of you interested in learning about video production and meeting a cool person make sure to drop by Room C124 and say hello!

As for someone you most likely have said hello to before Assistant Principal Sarah Wotton is a large presence in Oyster River High School. But did you know Wotton had a life before she was an Assistant Principal?



McCann reminisces showing off the patches on his old military jacket. Photo: Sam Colby

What many students don't know is that the majority of school administrators are former teachers, and ours are no different. The lovely Sarah Wotton, affectionately called Swotton, used to be a Biology teacher at Salem High School.

"I really like middle school," said Wotton "I taught 7th and 8th grade." While working at Salem High Wotton took courses for free through the school, in administration at the University of Maine. After working at Salem for 3 years Wotton heard about an Assistant Principal job opening at Oyster River. "I kind of applied on a whim," said Wotton "It wasn't anything I



Young Poses with her trusty camera. Photo: Sam Colby

really thought I would do that soon." Nevertheless here we are today with the stark result of said application.

Although thrilled, Wotton said that coming into the job so young was definitely hard from an administrative point of view. "I was only 27," said Wotton who since then has aged gracefully enough to make a fine Merlot jealous. Now comfortably ensconced in her administrative position Wotton refers to fellow Assistant Principal Mike McCann as having an interesting pre-administrative career.

Would it be appropriate to start calling Mr. McCann Sir? I wouldn't rule it out. It turns out the man we know and love, as Assistant Principal McCann is a veteran of the US Army. "I signed up for the Army before I got out of High School," says McCann, "and I was there for two years." McCann was shipped across the country landing somewhere in Texas. "I was stationed mostly out of El Paso," said McCann clearing up the finer points of geography.

While there McCann worked as a Combat Signaler, which in essence meant the majority of the job was setting up radios and communication lines. "I never saw combat" said McCann "I was very fortunate to get out before any of the major world events happened." Getting out of the military and returning to the world we know McCann attended UNH with aspirations to become an English teacher (continued on page 12)

THE BRITISH ARE COMING!

One Englishman's Epic Quest for American Citizenship



Trevor Oakes
Features Writer

"I am a puritan. I don't eat meat on Fridays. I can't even spell alcohol, let alone even taste it. So living in England was obviously very difficult. I felt I would come to America, where basically it's your right from birth to carry a gun, and they don't care what you do. I thought I would escape that tyranny in England, and live free or die," said Martin Brewer.

Brewer, an English teacher at Oyster River High School, is currently applying to become an American citizen, despite living stateside for 23 years. "I was looking at the students, and I realized, 'I've been in the country longer than they've been alive,'" Brewer said. "I felt like maybe it was a betrayal of my home country, but once I made up my mind it didn't feel that way at all. I can be a happy citizen of both."

Attaining citizenship is a harder task than some may assume. America is not the land of immigration it once was. To even be eligible for citizenship, you first have to meet the criteria the US citizenship website supplies. A few of these qualifications include: Being 18 years or older, having lawful permanent residence of five or more years (three if married to a US citizen), having basic knowledge of English as well as US history and geography, maintaining good moral character, and willing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

Nick Bernier, a current student of Brewer's, said Brewer "tells us all the time about how he's applying." Bernier continued: "He went over the citizenship test with us in class a bunch. Honestly, he got a lot of the answers wrong."

ORHS Social Studies and Citizen Education teacher Matt Pappas offered a few words about applying. "The biggest difference of living in the US without citizenship is being unable to participate in our electoral system - at all levels. Sure, you cannot vote for president, governor or any other position, but it also goes beyond that. If you live in a town in New Hampshire, you cannot participate in town politics and the town meetings. In essence, you pay money via taxes to the city/town but have no say in how those funds are spent. Being a citizen gives you a voice."

So what does Brewer gain from becoming a citizen? "The right to vote. He gains criminal rights in the event that he is ever arrested, so he won't be deported. He also gains the right to complain about taxes he pays - as an alien, he has to



Martin Brewer ponders a glorious future as an American citizen.
(Photo taken by Sam "Best Photographer in NH" Colby)

pay taxes but can't vote for his representatives in Washington or in Concord. In all seriousness, he gains the right to participate in our electoral process. Because he does pay taxes, he will gain a voice in the form of a ballot," explained Pappas.

Brewer may have been right to leave the land of religious persecution. Everyone is fully aware that the British don't allow for this independence, but what about taxation without representation? When he arrived here on the Mayflower 23 years ago, Brewer was euphoric. "I'm so happy to be taxed; it's a joy to me. If ever I'm depressed I think to myself 'Oh I'm being taxed' and I smile. And the fact that I'm being represented is glorious," said Brewer.

Brewer won't just be handed his newly minted passport from a smiling President Obama, however. There are quite a few hoops he has yet to jump through. "It is a bit complicated and takes anywhere from five months to two years to complete," said Pappas.

The process has gone even quicker for Brewer so far. "It's happened very quickly, I think for one main reason. I don't think many people come to New Hampshire to be immigrants. Let's face it I think it's the second whitest state in the country (Actually, according to abcnews.go.com, New Hampshire is the third least diverse state in the nation). There are not people knocking down the door saying 'let me be an American in New Hampshire!'" claimed Brewer. He's already gone through one background check, and had his fingerprints and photo taken at the Immigration Center in Bedford. Yet to be done are the oral and written tests, based on US history and geography. Finally there

is an interview, where they are "probably" examining whether Brewer is "a member of Al-Qaeda" or "communing with Osama Bin-Laden."

So can Brewer pass? "I've done my homework," he claims. "Now the geography is dead easy. Atlantic on the east, Pacific on the west, the Mississippi is the longest river. I was a bit shaky on the really early history, Father of the Constitution and what not, but I've done my homework." Most students at Oyster River will take this exact test just to see how well they can do. A "significantly large portion" of those students will fail said test horribly. But Brewer has a specific strategy. "Basically if I just say it's a lot of old, dead white guys who wore wigs, that should cover most of the Presidents," he explained. (Update: As of press time Brewer has passed both the test portion of the application and the interview, with only the Oath of Allegiance.)

Now the important part: How does this affect the students, and on a larger scale, the rest of the country? After all, we are allowing a Brit to come and teach the future leaders of our country. Maybe he's bringing in a bias about America's heroes, like the "terrorist" label that the British may apply to George Washington. What do the students think about their teacher fully embracing America as his own?

Senior Alex Eustace offered a strong opinion about the news. "I just figured that everybody who lives in this glorious nation is an American citizen. Everyone who works for this glorious nation should be an American citizen. I'm an optimist; I am a glass half full kind of guy. But now that I hear he's been living here, scrounging off us, think citizenship should be denied to him for lying to us."

"I believe he needs to go back over the border," expressed Eustace. "I One of Brewer's best friends and co-workers since arriving here has been Lou Mroz. Mroz, a social studies teacher at ORHS, has known Brewer for all of the seventeen years Brewer has worked at the high school. "I'm very very excited," said Mroz of his friend becoming a citizen. "But the bottom line is, if he becomes a citizen that means that we'll take anyone. The door is open for everybody."

The transition process, if there is one, is also being taken care of by Mroz. "One of the things we're going to work on is getting rid of his English accent, and we're gonna get him ready to talk like an American, hopefully with half of a New England accent, and half of a New York accent," Mroz (a Brooklyn native) articulated. Should American patriotism be instilled into Brewer? Do we draw the line at becoming at just becoming a citizen, or is that not enough? Maybe every piece of clothing Brewer owns should have a bald eagle sewn on proudly. "We will work on his patriotism. I know there are a lot of reasons he wanted to become an American citizen. Many English people are still very sad that they lost the American Revolution. At least one day a week he will wear nothing but red, white, and blue."

Of course Brewer will still be able to go back home and visit with friends and family. Every summer, Brewer has gone back to his home country (some say it's because he misses the Queen), and other various European nations. And that's great. However, a clear problem presents itself here: Fourth of July. "He should not fly until the fifth. We must now say to him, you don't fly at the end of June, you wait until July

fifth so you can be part of the festivities over here," said Mroz of this dilemma. In Mroz's eyes, Brewer should drop all of his British traditions and ideals before becoming a citizen. "Forget about the Beatles, he'll have to be much more into the Beach Boys and The Doors. Forget about soccer, it's going to be baseball, and basketball, and football. None of this soccer where you wear shorts and you kick a ball and run around all day."

The citizenship test is really only memorization. It's fair to assume that most people could pass if they just put the time in to remember it all. To some, that test seems too minor, too easy to pass. And above all else, it doesn't demonstrate why one might want to be an American citizen. A few of the students had some suggestions on what the test should be changed to. "In my opinion, you have to pass a written test, and by written test I mean you need to fill in the blanks of the national anthem and *My Country Tis of Thee*, but you're given only one word bank with all the words in it so you might mess up," Eustace stated. He then continued: "Then you must bake fifty apple pies, one for each state, and finally go falconing, but with a bald eagle. And if you can train that bald eagle to become your pet, then you are as American as they get."

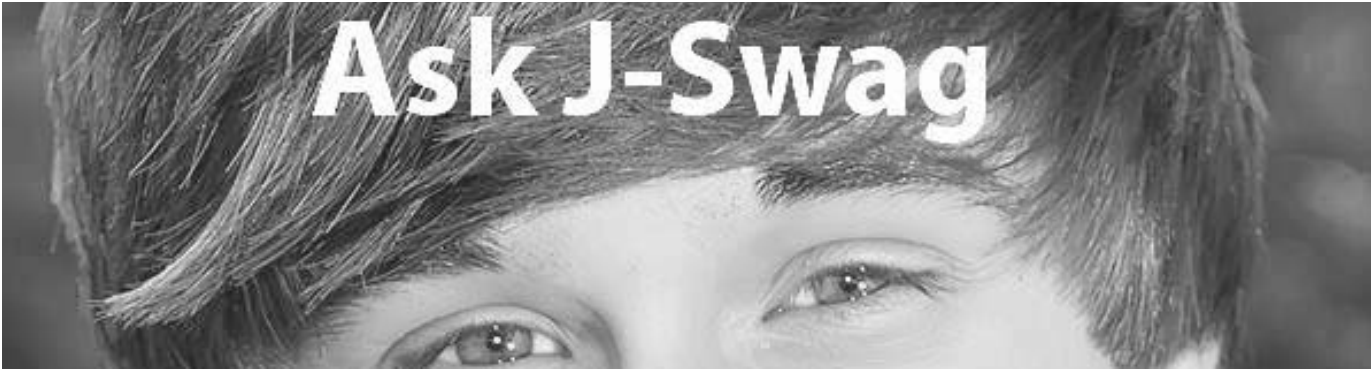
Mroz thought a physical challenge was more appropriate. "Probably fifty pushups with me on his back, because he's a tough guy," Mroz elaborated. "If he's going to represent us, I hope he can be in the best physical condition in order to do that." Another student of Brewer's, Colby Runk, would rather Brewer helped out those he taught, to show he cares about the future generations of America. "(He should) probably give everybody taking Brit Lit Two

next semester an A plus," said Runk.

But there is only so much Brewer would do to gain citizenship. Suprisingly, he set those limitations pretty high. "I would watch all five Rambo movies back-to-back, eat a tub of popcorn the size of Rhode Island, along with a twelve pack of soda. I think after that I would go on a twenty-four hour shopping spree around Wal-Mart, and I think that would make me an American," said Brewer.

He can try to leave all of his British traditions behind, but for Brewer that may be impossible. Brewer may even try to integrate some of those traditions into everyday American culture. "Spotted dick (a type of bread pudding) for dessert with lashings of marmite. A day not does go by when I don't have marmite," Brewer announced. Among his other future plans, Brewer cited "making the World Series a cricket tournament" as a high priority. He admitted his confusion over the "World" portion of the name, and proclaimed cricket to be the "world's sport."

So what's next for Brewer? After his interview, there is a swearing in ceremony where Brewer will take the Oath of Allegiance, with his English family present. If Brewer manages to fully become a citizen by next summer, he is planning a little Independence Day celebration back home in England. "On the fourth of July there will be a party which will celebrate my becoming a citizen," said Brewer. Will the British like celebrating a day known more or less for the start of American Independence? "They find it quite amusing, to them I'll always be British," continued Brewer. "But it's a commitment to the country to which I've lived, let's face it for almost half my life, and it's the right thing to do."



For more advice from j-swag check out mornewspaper.com/ask-j-swag

Q. What should Oyster River do about Newmarket? Should we allow the districts to combine?

A. If we didn't, we would be losing a lot of great teachers that our community has had for a very long time. If we want to keep our wide variety of classes that our school has to offer and keep the same teachers, then we will have to allow Newmarket kids in.

Q. Should we have a school pet?

A. Obviously. Having a bobcat as a school pet might be too risky, but I could definitely talk to Mr. Allen about keeping a bunny in the senior core.

Q. Should Oyster River really have a football team? The lacrosse teams are already jerks a football team might make them even more cocky.

A. The lacrosse team is rightfully cocky though. Have you seen the muscles on Landon Burt? Dang.

Q. Hey J-Swag, I'm a big fan of yours! Just wondering, how does Mr. Kelly keep his hair so perfect all day?

A. Magic and shampoo. Lots of shampoo.

Q. I can't focus in my classes because I really like this girl and I can't stop thinking about her. She sits in front of me during one of them, how can I start a conversation?

A. The only real thing I can see you do in this situation is to create a rap song professing your love towards her and perform in front of the whole class. She will feel too awkward to say no!

Q. Wow J-swag! What a funny and creative advice column! Are you going to put another one in for the next issue? P.S. You are very handsome.

A. You bet! Keep sending in your questions to ask.fm/mouthoftheriver and your question may be featured on the next issue of Mouth of the River! Until next time, keep swagging Oyster River.

Before They Were Teachers, Continued From Page 9

Through a series of twists and turns McCann ended up being more interested in Special Education working at Dover High School as a paraprofessional. "It was a good first experience," said McCann who seemed to take the best out of his former job. "All along the way I developed different skills and interests," said McCann eventually leading to work at Oyster River as a Special Educator for nine years. During this time McCann began to take courses in Administration.

"I wanted to be part of it in a different way" said McCann citing his desire to become an Assistant Principal. Now McCann can help from a more hands on approach and still be around students everyday. Now in his 6th year as Assistant Principal McCann definitely deserves to be called sir now and then just to remind him of some proud history. And don't tell him you heard it from me, but I bet a salute here and there wouldn't hurt either!

Serving in a different kind of way language teacher Señor Tom Hausmann joined the Peace Corps. "When I graduated from college I did not want to get a regular job," says Hausmann, "I really wanted to do something a little more useful." Joining the Peace Corps meant Hausmann would be travelling the world to help and serve those less fortunate. Already knowing Spanish Hausmann had the edge that landed him in a Spanish speaking country far away from anything our world is like.

Travelling to Paraguay Hausmann was surprised to find out that the particular village he was staying in did not in fact speak Spanish but instead spoke a native Indian dialect. After 3 months of training Hausmann was shipped off to his village speaking the foreign language of Guaraní. Within 6 months he was comfortable with the language and spent a total of 2 years in the

village. Hausmann spent another year and a half in the country working as an apiarist (bee keeper) and helping out with the Peace Corps program.

Coming home was not easy but after working for multiple Spanish speaking Telecommunication companies Hausmann was far from finding the fulfillment he left behind in Paraguay. "I was going non-stop," said Hausmann "It was not a lot of

fun especially not seeing my wife." One momentous day when visiting said wife at UNH, Hausmann spoke with the Spanish department there and got roped into education. Hausmann received a master in Spanish language from UNH and eventually applied to Oyster River.

Today he happily resides in room T107 and will gladly regale you with a tale of his Paraguay days.

The last destiny-confused educator on my list is Science teacher Nathan Oxnard. "Going into college I was clearly on a medical school track," says Oxnard. Oxnard who chose to double major in Biochemistry and Russian said he thought, "that combination would be distinguishing for medical schools." Oxnard adds to this saying "at the same time it was fun to do."

You must be asking yourself, with such a great double major in place what exactly made him change track? Oxnard cites an introspective junior year in which he realized he was only following the medical track because his father had and it was the easy thing for him to choose. Postponing med-school Oxnard did a year in the Ameri-corps. The Ameri-corps is similar to the Peace Corps except that it operates

within the United States. After doing a year of work in Seattle, teaching middle school kids and building a park, Oxnard realized his true passion. Finding his way home to New Hampshire (being an Exeter native) Oxnard began to look for teaching jobs.

After teaching in private schools for a while Oxnard found that to ever teach in a public school he would need to obtain more credentials. Travelling all the way back to Washington Oxnard finished up his degree at the University of Seattle, Washington. Coming home once more he taught at a small school in Allenstown, NH for three years before applying to Oyster River. Now on his fourth year here Oxnard has found his groove, and although that Russian major has yet to come in handy, who knows what the future holds.

Interviewing two students who have yet to find out their own career paths seniors Jan Bartos and Emily Howard were surprised by what many of the teachers did before becoming educators. "Mrs. Wotton stands out to me the most and I am surprised that she was a Biology teacher. I can imagine that she was a great teacher because she can really relate to the students," Says Howard. Howard continues saying "I expected Mr. Hausmann to have lived in a Spanish speaking country because he is fluent in the language and is a great teacher." Howard says she sees herself doing "something science oriented or maybe in the field of psychology."

Bartos although surprised at some teacher's paths was generally appreciative of how they got there. Bartos related to teaching on a personal level saying, "my dad is a teacher and I can tell that he really enjoys going to work everyday. It seems like a pretty good line of work because it's rewarding and you get a lot of vacation time." Bartos respects what these teachers have become and continues saying "I think I could see myself teaching in some way or another."

Bartos wraps up this segment with a suitably stoic quote. "Everybody has a journey that they take through life. Opportunities present themselves, risks sometimes don't turn out the way they should. You can never really know what you are going to end up doing, even if you have a set plan. I don't know (about these teacher's paths) but none of them are wrong or weird in any way." Maybe the path to happiness isn't as straight as many of us once thought, but it certainly seems like it will be exciting. Be it travelling across the world, meeting famous people, or serving our country next time you see a teacher, recognize that there might be more there than meets the eye.

Travelling to Paraguay Hausmann was surprised to find out that the particular village he was staying in did not in fact speak Spanish but instead spoke a native Indian dialect.



Sarah Wotton posing elegantly in her executive office.

MOUTH OF THE RIVER PHOTO CONTEST



Alyssa Bangrazi
Features Editor

The voters have spoken, and the winner of the reimagined Mouth of the River Photo Contest was sophomore, Neville Caulfield. Runners up included senior Joycelyn Loughlin in second and junior Alex Cavallaro in third. All of the pictures are online and in color at www.mornewspaper.com under the photography contest tab, and in the “view submissions” section. Thank you to all who submitted.

Caulfield’s picture was taken this summer in Acadia. He explained that his inspiration was “when [he] goes on hikes, [he] brings a camera [which is] screwed into [his] tripod, but just low [enough] so [he] can just adjust it a little bit and put it on rocks near a river.” He also explained how he “like[s] the long exposure,” which is the amount of time the camera shutter stays open while taking a picture. Caulfield used a Nikon D3200, and for this picture he used a two second shutter speed to create the motion of the waterfall in the picture. This photo was taken with “[his] tripod in the water,” and the camera was tilted at an angle to make the waterfall look bigger.

“It’s a fantastic photo,” senior photography student Mikey McDonough said. He voted for this picture “because it was interesting. The water was all blurry and the rest was really clear and nice,” McDonough shared. He continued to explain why he voted for Caul-

“When I go on hikes, I bring a camera [which is] screwed into my tripod, but just low [enough] so I can just adjust it a little bit and put it on rocks near a river.”

-Neville Caulfield

field’s picture. “[I voted for this picture] just [because it had] better quality. I did like the sunset one but, I don’t know, I just thought it was the best quality photo out of the bunch.”

Loughlin’s inspiration for her Wagon Hill sunset photo was that her friend had just got a new Canon Rebel, and she wanted to prove that her Samsung Galaxy S3 was better than her friend’s camera. Loughlin stated that her picture was unedited and that she wouldn’t change

anything about her photo, “that [was] the best sunset I’ve ever seen... The way it reflected on the water was really cool.” She also explained that she has tried to recreate the image, but none of the sunsets she has photographed have come remotely close to the one she took for the contest. “I like this one because of the composition, where they placed

the horizon line, the reflection on the water,” photography and art teacher Mrs. Bilynsky said. “I think compositionally [this photo



First place Neville Caulfield’s photo.



Third place Alex Cavallaro’s photo.



Second place Joycelyn Loughlin’s photo.

stood out from the others]. I think they arranged the elements really well... and just the color, for me,” she continued. Cavallaro’s photo was taken at Adam’s Point “[my friends and I were] watching the sunset... [and] just took a bunch of pictures.” It was taken with his iPhone, and was edited with an app called Afterlight. “I did more of a dusty effect to make it look like an old photo and then after that I put [this kind of effect] that’s like a light on the side of it,” Cavallaro shared. “[I voted for this photo] but I put it as my third option just because I really liked Neville’s. His was really good quality,” photography student and junior Shelby Shephard explained. “I feel like he edited his [picture]. There was a little ‘right streak’ on the picture, I wouldn’t have done that” Shephard shared.

MANDEVILLE'S MADNESS

A Week in the Life of a Fantasy Football Addict



Trevor Oakes
Features Writer

Before we take a look at a week in the life of Michael Mandeville, let me detail this fantasy football craze that so many people across the country obsess over during the fall. As Mandeville puts it, "fantasy football sort of lets you be the manager of your own football team." The idea is that a group of friends, colleagues, or even strangers set up a league as a friendly (or in many cases unfriendly) competition. It starts out with a draft. Just like in the real world of American football, team "owners" are tasked with drafting their own players. However, in the world of fantasy football, you can choose any offensive player from any real team (excluding lineman), as well as any real team's defense. Some leagues use an auction draft, while others work more like the real thing, with rounds and set draft order. Each league is different, with the ability to change the rules to suit what the members want.

After that, you start players every week for your team. Every time one of your players scores or makes a big catch or run in a real game, your team gets those points. Each week the goal is for your team to get more points than another team. For this, you get a victory. Most leagues have playoffs near the end of the regular NFL season, and a champion is crowned (full disclosure: I am the current champion of my league, and the bragging rights are pretty sweet). Got it? No? That's okay we'll move on anyways. Below is an average week in the life of Michael Mandeville, a fantasy football fanatic.

Monday:

6:30 A.M: Wakes up and immediately grabs Smartphone. There are scores to check, players to pick up.

Free Agents are the hot commodities of the fantasy football world. These are the undrafted players that sit unclaimed by teams, and can make or break a season. They dwell in pool of uncertainty waiting to be claimed, but whether or not they can be effective remains to be seen. "Check the free agents, absolutely," says Ryan Kerrigan, an avid fan of fantasy football. "Every day, that's the bottom line. Every Monday I check who the defenses are playing, grab some sleepers, boom," he continues.

6:35 A.M: Puts phone in a Ziplock bag so he can use it in the shower.

Says Mandeville: "One can never have enough fantasy football."

Tuesday:

9:17 A.M: Relentlessly brags on about how his running backs are unstoppable during Spanish



class. The reigning king of his fantasy football league poses with his 24-carat solid gold trophy (Photo: Brenna Walczak)

Repeatedly ignores his

teacher's commands to stop.

Sometimes fantasy football starts to interfere with school. The obsessive nature of competition may lead to drastic drops in grades as the student continues to ignore academics for the pigskin. "It's football. I will watch games at Michael's and then leave a paper for the last minute. And that's just the way I do things," says Kerrigan. It's a tough world for Mandeville and Kerrigan, as the life of a fantasy football interferes with their daily schedule. "If given the opportunity, I would much rather do fantasy football," Mandeville explains. Now that seems pretty obvious, but why make the sacrifice? Kerrigan sums up his feelings pretty well: "Be-

cause papers are hard, and football is easy."

9:28 A.M: Sent to principals for numerous class disruptions.

Should parents be worried that fantasy football has found its way into the ORHS curriculum? Students in Derek Cangello's Sports and Society Class have been participating in a class-wide fantasy football league throughout the year. But as Phillip Posset, a student of Cangello's, explains, it's not quite as bad as you'd think. "It's twenty people, and maybe less than fifty percent are active. A lot of kids aren't really participating," says Posset. Pos-

set thinks it's a "nice idea" to have all of the Sports and Society classes do this, but it "has not educational value, and is purely for fun. Posset puts a lot more effort into his league outside of school, because that's where he has to try. "It's a lot more shallow, I talk about it way more with you guys and very little in my class" he continues.

Wednesday

10:45 A.M: Mandeville is sent to principal's again for "alleged" harassment.

Trash talking is not only an active part of any fantasy football league, it's essential. No one is suggesting incredibly mean and offensive acts, but a little bit of verbal banter and teasing over a team's misfortune is necessary. It's what makes playing fantasy football so fun, putting your team above somebody else's. If you're having trouble grasping this, think of it as a way to boost someone's self-esteem. "We have a Facebook message group, and trash talking is all over it," says Mandeville. "If my team is doing better than the one I'm playing, I'll just send a message to the other guy saying something along the lines of 'I'm better than you'. And I accept that people are going to do the same to me."

Pieter Zwart, another fantasy football player, wants to make sure it's known that it's all in good spirit. "It's always fun trash talking friends who you're playing that week. Sometimes things can get heated but everyone knows it's all in good fun," he says. For Kerrigan, (continued on page 16)

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

And How it Differs for Students



Sam Colby
Guest Features
Writer

It may come as no surprise to some, that public schools take away your rights. Yes, it's true; the rights afforded to us by the first amendment are not actually our rights while you're in school. The rules seem to bend due to the fact that we are students and under 18. The first amendment is something that is studied extensively in school; I'm sure many people can remember studying the topic back in their middle school years. Yet, surprisingly, you are often not allowed to exercise your first amendment rights while in school.

The first amendment gives every American citizen five very important freedoms, these freedoms have come to define America as being a free country. In case you needed a refresher, the first amendment gives every American citizen the freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition. However something called *in loco parentis* plays a large role in oppressing these freedoms in school. *In loco parentis* literally means "in the place of a parent" in Latin. This phrase refers to the responsibility and ability a school has to act as a student's parent. You may be wondering how *in loco parentis* affects your life as a student. It could affect you quite directly, if the school deems your actions or expressions as a distraction, the school can legally oppress your freedom of speech, religion, assembly, petition, and press.

Oyster River High School Dean of Students Mike McCann explains the situations and rules in which the school could infringe on your rights. "You have free speech up to a point" says McCann. He also adds "it depends on if the person is violating a certain school policy." McCann says that he can't recall a profound situation in which the school had to stop a student from exercising their first amendment rights, but adds that there are hypothetical situations in which this might need to happen. These situations could include a disruption to the school day, a break in school policy, or even something as simple as inciting a disturbance or fight. McCann also explains how *in loco parentis* also relates to the fourth amendment (search and seizure) as well as the first.

The students are those who are di-

rectly affected by this, and they have their own opinions on the topic. Oyster River High School Junior Liam Cahill states: "I don't think it's fair [in loco parentis], school is to us what the workplace is to our parents, we should have the same rights that they do." Cahill also adds that despite our age, our first amendment rights should remain equal to our parents and authorities. However even though Cahill has strong opinions against the oppression of our rights, he understands the school's point of view. "You should have these freedoms to the point where it's appropriate," he adds. You may have heard of a few past examples of schools challenging students' first amendment rights. Some cases have even gone to the Supreme Court. One in particular, Bethel V. Fraser, involved a student giving a speech to the school. This speech was deemed inappropriate by the school, as it

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." - First Amendment of the Constitution

was considered subliminally sexually suggestive. However Fraser claimed he was protected by the first amendment, Cahill recalls learning about this case, and believes Fraser should have won. "Technically since the speech wasn't saying anything blatant, I think it should have been allowed," says Cahill. "If the speech was offensive or targeting a specific individual, then I think it shouldn't be allowed," he adds. Cahill's opinion is actually the

opposite of the court ruling. The court, siding with the school district, claimed Fraser's speech was sexually vulgar, and pushed the limits of appropriate expression at school. "It's important to voice your opinion, that's how you learn," adds Cahill.

Discussion about your first amendment rights may spark some memories for certain students of Oyster River High School. In the 2010/2011 school year, many students of ORHS conducted the first ever "walk out" in which students walked in protest down



Matthew Fraser, in front of his school, courtesy of glogster.com

the street to the SAU building. This "walk out" was an effort to express a mutual opinion of annoyance towards the school board. The students took action because the school board was in the process of searching for a new principle, and the students believed the way they were going about it was rather dictating. ORHS World Language teacher Mary Beaton recalls the event. "I think it was certainly a distraction to the school day, however I supported their right to do so," says Beaton.

Beaton expresses her support for the students' rights, even as an adult in the school. She believes the walkout "had an impact." She adds "I think there is power in numbers, if people had made something less distracting to the school day, I don't think it would have had the impact." Lastly she says "some distractions are good distractions," touching upon the fact that not all things deemed as distractions by the school are actually bad things. Despite how the walkout affected the school day, its impact and precedent for the freedom of assembly and speech for students was made known.

A topic such as this is so vast that all relative information must be taken into consideration. This meant getting information about first amendment rights for students of higher education: college. University of New Hampshire Clinical Professor of Justice Studies and Co-Director of Justice Works, Charles Putnam, sheds some light on the many aspects of how the first amendment applies to UNH students. (Article Continued on page 16)

Mandeville’s Madness, Continued From Page 13

verbal abuse is his forte. “I make sure I say something pretty mean, wildly inappropriate, and probably offensive,” states Kerrigan. “But I’m friends with all the guys and it’s chill.”

11:04 A.M: Receives an F on his math test. Again.

Some pretend football doesn’t have to interfere with school life. Zwart actually thinks he manages it pretty well. “It’s easy to get caught up in fantasy but I do a good job keeping my fantasy time to a minimum,” he claims. His report card will be the judge of that.

11:29 A.M: Turns said test into a paper football.

To some, the idea of obsessing over a sport that isn’t even real and doesn’t really affect you doesn’t make a whole lot of sense. Before I explained the concept to her, ORHS senior Branwyn Ritchie had no idea what fantasy football even was. “Objectively, it doesn’t seem reasonable to be obsessed about fantasy football, but I know that football is a big deal so I guess I can see the appeal for people who are really active fans...” says Ritchie.

11:36 A.M: A fight ensues over the game of paper football.

“...That being said I don’t think people should get hostile about teams that don’t exist,” she continues.

11:38 A.M: Mandeville is sent to the principals for the third time in two days.

Thursday:

8:15 A.M: Begins plotting another scheme to win his fantasy football league.

Over the past year or so, Mandeville has made a lot of questionable decisions as league commissioner, largely benefit himself. I should know, I’ve been in his league. First there was the changing of the league schedule so that some teams (Mandeville’s) played a lot of bad opponents while others (mine) had to play all the good teams. Then came the “draft via text message” because “people couldn’t agree on a day”. That resulted in Mandeville choosing the

bench players for every team in the league. Next followed the addition of a roster spot so Mandeville could pick up a player, and finally there was Mandeville’s ownership transfer of one team because “someone wasn’t paying attention”.

“Basically he kicked Jason (Alphonse) out of the league for missing like one game. He gave Jason’s team to someone else,” says Kerrigan. Mandeville claims it was “more like three games”.

“Well, one of the good aspects is that I have a ton of power, but one of the bad aspects is that sometimes I get carried away with all that power,” Mandeville admits. But as the “dictator” of his league, Mandeville says he puts in a lot of effort. “People always hate on me, but I have a lot of work to do! Why don’t some of the other players try being commissioner for a week? They underestimate the amount of work that goes into it. People think I sit around, and do nothing, and that’s not what I do.”

2:46 P.M: Goes home and watches four hours of The League instead of doing homework.

So how did this fake sport garner so much attention so quickly? Some may point to the rising popularity of the FXX TV show The League. Based around a group of friends in their own fantasy league, the sitcom has influenced many to start playing, as well as introduced the world to a whole host of fantasy football lingo. One of these terms is “trade- abuse”. Kerrigan explains: “When a trade benefits one party drastically more than the other, that’s a trade-abuse.” Popularized by The League, this term has now become common speak amongst fantasy football players.

10:59 P.M: Falls asleep and has wonderful dream where Reggie Bush scores nine touchdowns.

Friday:

7:23 A.M: Flattens three squirrels and one shrub one his way to school because he was busy “lineup tinkering and driving”.

11:43 P.M: Falls asleep and has nightmare where Reggie Bush is killed by Russell Wilson, in the first quarter.

Saturday:

9:12 A.M: Passes out due to excitement for football Sunday.

9:14 A.M: Comes to.

9:17 A.M: Passes out again.

12:20 P.M: Browses the 72 different websites in 3 different languages for fantasy football advice.

4:34 P.M: Suffers massive panic attack after thinking he didn’t start the right player.

4:34 P.M: Realizes he didn’t.

11:23 P.M: Puts on lucky New England Patriots onesie and goes to sleep.

Sunday:

1:02 P.M: Sits down to watch football, begins to eat the first of his 38 buffalo wings.

For most players, fantasy football changes the way you watch the game. “Instead of just cheering for one team, I catch all the touchdowns for all the games. I’m cheering for multiple players on multiple teams,” says Mandeville. Kerrigan concurs: “you get a different lust for the game, and you pay more attention to it. There’s also a sense of camaraderie that comes with it. You get to hang out with friends more too,” he says.

“You get more invested in the games. Before, I wasn’t a huge sports guy, and now I’m into all of them. It’s changed my outlook on the sporting media,” Kerrigan continues.

2:08 P.M: Throws shoe at TV in frustration over play. No visible damage is present.

7:56 P.M: Cries three separate times over a fantasy football loss.

“If I don’t win at least one playoff game this year, I may not show up to school for a month,” Mandeville claims.

10:39 P.M: Goes to sleep to start the process all over again.

The First Amendment, Continued From Page 15

As a member of the clinical faculty of UNH, Putnam notes that the information he provided is meant for general observation, and his personal viewpoints, rather than the university’s view. The information he provided should not be taken as legal advice. Putnam has his own interpretations on in loco parentis. “You will probably find some disagreement about this point when it comes to free speech, but I don’t think a school can generally step into a parent’s shoes to prohibit a particular statement or speech activity, unless the statement or activity disrupts or threatens to disrupt the school’s educational activities.” Putnam also shared knowledge about the world of student journalism, especially when the paper is sponsored by the school. “If the editor of a school newspaper writes an editorial calling for the legalization of alcohol for

minors, a school official could make a statement outlining the health, psychological, social, and academic harms that can happen when underage persons drink alcohol.” However, Putnam absolutely believes high school students have rights. “High school students have rights to free speech under the First amendment. They are not as extensive as the rights of adults or even of college students, but it would be a mistake, in my view, to say that high school students do not have such rights.”

Todd DeMitchell, UNH Professor of Education and former school Superintendent also has vast knowledge on the topic of the first amendment. DeMitchell shares information about student free speech, stating that a student could get in legal trouble, when “speech turns into conduct.” In other words, a student could get in trouble for free speech when said speech provokes

disruption or violence. Touching upon the topic of school newspapers, as Putnam did, DeMitchell says a school has great control over their students’ paper if the school sponsors the newspaper. However he said “UNH student sponsored newspapers may be different in regards to the university’s control of the news articles”. Lastly, in regards to UNH student publications, DeMitchell added “The student newspaper may bear responsibility for lawsuits.”

With various opinions, laws and viewpoints, the topic of the first amendment and how it relates to students can get very confusing. The bottom line is, students do not have the same rights as they do outside school, or as adults do. The school could technically deem anything you say or do as a “distraction”, but how this is deemed seems to be a gray area based on opinion and intuition, rather than fact or law.

TOP HOLIDAY GIFTS



Sadie Moore
Guest Features
Writer

Are you sick and tired of endlessly brainstorming holiday gift ideas, only to come up with nothing? Here is a list of the top 13 gifts chosen by ORHS students. Go shopping with this list to avoid spending all day looking around the mall.!

Watch- Watches are coming back! Even if you don't know how to read an analog clock and just stick to your phone they are a nice accessory. "Watches are trendy and helpful. There are so many and lots of different styles," said Zephyr Jaeger. Women's and Men's watches on sale for \$17.50 at ae.com (American Eagle).



Watch from Target

Gift cards- If you don't know what they want gift cards are a safe bet. It shows more thought than just cash. Just observe what they like to do. "I love getting gift cards so that I can pick what I want myself." -Isabelle Todd.



Engraved Mug from Things Remembered

Engrave Something Jewelry, mugs, picture frames are all objects that can be engraved at Things Remembered. There are lots of items that can be engraved. It is a personalized gift that can last forever. There are always good quality items for sale and it's easy to find what you are looking for online or in the store. Many metal items from other places can be engraved at Things Remembered or somewhere else as well. Some mugs can be

Chocolate Dipped Goodies- There are lots of things you can dip including pretzels and fruit. It is inexpensive and homemade. It's as easy as melting chocolate. "Who doesn't want chocolate?" -Owen McCabe.

Sports/concert tickets- With Boston only a train ride away it's easy to find sports games and concerts there. Even if you are in the nosebleeds you can make a trip of it. Go to dinner, go ice skating, then see your favorite singer from 100 feet away. "They make memories. They make an instead of an object. There is so much excitement getting them and then waiting for the event it is like getting a present twice." -Liam Cahill. Bruins Balcony Tickets can be bought as cheap as \$37.

Sperry's- Boat shoes are trendy and comfortable. After a few months the leather forms to your feet. They can be worn in all seasons. There are so many different styles and it's fun to choose your favorite. Although pricey they are good quality and can be worn with everything. At sperrytopsider.com women's and men's Sperry's are as low as \$59.99.



Homemade, no-sew blanket.
Photo courtesy of Pintrest

Make a blanket- Get two pieces of fleeces from a fabric store. Cut four inch slits around the edges and tie them together. Watch a YouTube video on it. It's easy and you can personalize and choose how you want it to look. "I would like to get a homemade blanket because it shows that person took the time out of their day to make it and it shows that they care." -Maggie McNamara. This project can be pulled off for \$20 or less.

Alex and Ani- Alex and Ani is the new charm bracelet. They are expandable bangle bracelets with a charms on them. There are over 100 different ones and they all have a meaning. They are in many stores and also at alexandani.com. There are classic bangles and beaded bangles. Prices range from \$32-\$198.



Alex and Ani Bracelet

Photo album- With camera phones and Facebook there are selfies and candid's everywhere. All of our photos are online incase the internet crashes forever it would be nice to have memories to look at in the future. If you feel creative make it like a scrapbook with little notes and photo descriptions on pretty paper. 29 cents to print a photo at Wal-Mart.

Sports memorabilia- For all the big sports fans there's a lot out there at different prices that they would enjoy. There are clothing, hats, posters, bumper stickers and lots of other things to help them root on their team. "I like to support my team and players." -Conor Deptula. Olympia Sport fan t shirts on sale for \$11.99 and jerseys for \$64.95.

Phone case- you can never have too many phone cases. Whether they are trendy or waterproof they're easy and useful. Get some off amazon for \$1 and Life-Proof cases for \$40.

LANDON'S FAVORITE THINGS!

Because Who Doesn't Love Banana Suits?



Landon Burt
Op-Ed Writer



We all know that Christmas is coming up fast and the pressure is on to have the coolest presents around. Look no further! We got the hottest new trendy gifts that will leave everyone speechless. What does Oprah give to people? A pair of ridiculous shoes? A moped scooter that you may only use once? Dangerous trips to Australia where you're at the risk of shark attacks? Landon's favorite things is the best way to give unique long lasting gifts that people will cherish forever. Other gift givers will be overwhelmed with jealousy, saying things like "Why didn't I think of that?!"... Because Landon did first.

Indoor Frisbee

Description: Have you ever been playing Frisbee indoors when it accidentally hits an unsuspecting victim in the face? Now there's a new way to play Frisbee in close corridors with the new cloth Frisbee! This amazing new invention is a small flat Frisbee made out of yarn, but is able to fly just as well as many of the leading brand Frisbees. It allows you to play Frisbee anywhere you go, limiting the serious injuries that you could receive.

Where do I get this awesome item?: Dicks Sporting Goods

Cost: Between \$15-20

Reactions: "Floppy, but fun!" - Nick Bernier

"Third best purchase I have made this month!" -Gus Loureiro

Bluetooth Glove Head Set

Description: This amazing gift will have people giving you all different types of looks. These comfortable gloves connect to your phone via Bluetooth, in order to allow you to talk with just your thumb and pinky on the phone. This method of "fake" talking on the phone that has been passed down from generation to generation, has become to the new revolutionary "real" way for everyone to talk.

Where do I get this awesome item?: Hi-fun.com

Cost: Between \$50-75

Reactions: "Genius invention!" -Adam Geddis



Photo Credit: Adam Geddis



Photo Credit: Adam Geddis

Purple Pants

Description: These fashionable new pants are the new style of the future. Bringing back the retro style of people like MC Hammer and the guy from Reading Rainbow, makes you almost always the coolest person in the room. These pants can be worn in everyday situations. Not suggested for formal wear.

Where do I get this awesome item?: Exclusivley at Savers

Cost: Priceless

Reactions: "Something that you would definetley wear on a first date to impress the ladies" -Adam Stevens

Banana Costume

Description: This next item is pretty self-explanatory.... Who honestly wouldn't want one of these as a gift? These classic costumes can be used in any situation during the day, all the way from having a guy in a gorilla costume chase you around to having a casual sit down dinner with the family.

Where do I get this awesome item?: Several different websites/Savers

Cost: Between \$20-35

Reactions:One of the best purchases I have ever made!-Dom Dantillio



Photo Credit: Adam Geddis

Coin

Description: This is the new modern day credit card. This particular card allows you to store as many credit cards, gift cards, and reward cards etc. that take up so much space in your wallet. With this one electronic card you can store up to 100 cards on it and switch between them whenever you want. It also features an security system that sends an alert to your phone if you leave your coin behind. This is the future of purchasing items.

Where do I get this awesome item? Coming Soon: Onlycoin.com

Cost: \$50-100

Reactions: "This is technology of the future!" - Adam Geddis



Photo Credit: Adam Geddis



Photo Credit: Adam Geddis

Inflatable Backseat Mattress

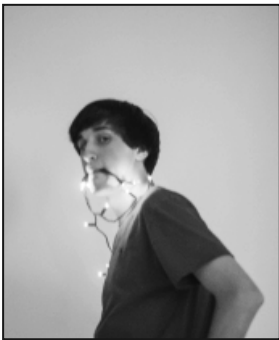
Description: Have you ever been in one of those trouble situations where you had to sleep in your car? Do you need a more comfortable place to sleep when you go camping instead of a tent? The answer is here! This inflatable car mattress fits almost all compact sized cars by doubling the amount of space in your seat for maximum comfort.

Where do I get this awesome item?: Amazon

Cost: \$149

Reactions: "I sleep in the back of my car all the time, so this will be great!" - Adam Smath

JSWAG IN THE CAFE



James Tuliano
Op-Ed Writer

Each year, it appears that the cafeteria at Oyster River High School changes. Whether it is subtle or drastic, students are always quick to embrace the change or critique it. With so many different options to choose from, it may be hard to choose what to get during your lunch break. Luckily for you, Mouth of the River went deep undercover and sent in the infamous Op-Ed writer J-Swag to find out what products are actually worth getting.

Before we review the current products, however, let's have a quick history lesson. The Cafeteria was dramatically different a decade ago before healthy choices were regulated and enforced by the Government. Students used to be able to buy soda and vending machines were stocked up with candy, potato chips (not the baked kind) and gum. Fast forward to 2013, our vending machines look like they were raided by Uncle Sam himself and slapped the word "organic" onto each package.

Without further ado, here are some reviews of random products I have tested in the Bobcat Bistro.

Breakfast Sandwiches

Breakfast is definitely one of the strong points that our cafeteria has to offer. A variety of different breakfast foods are available from the beginning of A period all the way through the beginning of C period. The homemade breakfast sandwiches stand out from the rest of the breakfast food the Bobcat Bistro has to offer. Two croissants with a slice of cheese and sausage in the middle. You can feel the warmth of the sandwich embrace your taste buds after each bite of this delicious sandwich. J-Swag rates this sandwich 9/10 swags: definitely recommended.

Thin Crust Pizza

Thin crust pizza is sometimes sold instead of the regular pizza in the café, and the results are not always beneficial. The thin crust pizza is made in a way where the crunch of the crust overpowers the flavor of the sauce and cheese. Because of this, the thin crust pizza only gets 6.5/10 swags: would not recommend.

Chicken Sandwiches

These sandwiches are served in a tinfoil wrapping that has the rightful label of "hot and tasty". The chicken sandwiches are sold with just whole wheat rolls and a chicken patty, but you can add condiments such as BBQ sauce, ketchup and honey mustard to it after you buy it. These chicken sandwiches are delightfully made and get 9/10 swags: definitely would recommend.



Community responses:

Mrs. B (art department): "They had 2 lunches in the past two weeks that I thought was excellent. They had the shepherds pie, which I thought was almost as good as the one I make at home. They had nachos one day, chips with seasoned ground beef with sour cream and salsa which I also thought was excellent"

Pieter Zwart (11th grade): "[my favorite food is] Poptarts."

Adam Smath (12th grade): "I am relatively fond with the cheese burgers, but I dislike the lack of nachos in the school"

Waffle Fries

These fries are beyond delicious. You would have sworn that they fried these puppies up and served them out McDonalds. These crispy fries are baked until perfection and is a perfect side dish for any meal. For best results, dip in honey mustard. The waffle fries get 9.5/10 swags: almost perfect.

FALL & WINTER FASHION



Cece Cunningham
Op-Ed Editor

There are five specific styles of shoes for girls that are very popular for both winter and fall. One style is a tall boot that is usually black or brown. The boot sometimes has a zipper in the back and sometimes buckles around the ankles. A lot of the time the boots will have a slight heel. The most popular places to buy these boots are online or at Charlotte Russe.

Another popular style of boot is the combat boot. This boot is usually mid-calf with laces all the way up the front of the boot. Sometimes buckles are incorporated. These boots are also usually in black or brown. The best place to buy these boots is online, at Charlotte Russe or at Journey's.

The third popular style of boot is the bean boot. This boot has a rubber foot and a leather-type of material going up about mid-calf with laces. Bean boots were originally made by L.L Bean (hence the name) but since becoming popular have had knockoffs made by many different brands. The best place to buy these boots would obviously be L.L Bean, unless you are looking for a better price. In that case, you should look online or in smaller shoe stores.

The fourth style of shoe is Birkenstocks with wool socks. This shoe is a sandal with two straps across the top of the foot. The best place to buy Birkenstocks is from their website or from Reds Shoe Barn. "Birks with wool socks are my favorite shoe to wear in the fall," says senior Claire Salmon, "I wear them because they're comfortable... but mainly because they're the only shoe that will fit my foot."

The last most popular boot is the one that seems to make a comeback every year; the Ugg. Uggs are not as popular as the have been in previous years, but students continue to wear them for the comfort. Uggs come in many sizes; short bootie, mid-

Some would say that both winter and fall are the best seasons fashion wise. There are many different popular articles of clothing that become or continue to be popular for this time of year. Students here at Oyster River happen to be very fashionable.

calf, and tall. They also come in almost every color. They are filled with soft sheep fur, which I believe is the main cause of comfort. The best place to buy these is the actually Ugg website. If not there I would suggest Journey's.

The shoe that is most popular for boys during the fall and winter seasons is the Timberland work boot. Timberlands, better known as "timbs," can be worn with many different styles of pants. "Timbs with sweatpants is the best," says junior Mike Doyon, "I wear them almost every day during hockey season." The best place to buy timbs is from their website and in various stores. Many different companies make cheaper knockoffs. Doyon explains his favorite part about wearing timbs, "I like the tongue-flop... pretty B.A."

As far as shirts go there is one style that seems to be very popular with both guys and girls. This style of shirt is a flannel. Flannels can be worn with almost everything and provide both style and comfort. Senior Zach Martin agrees with me by saying, "I wear flannels because they are both warm and stylish." You can buy a flannel in most stores but from personal experience, Saver's has some nice ones.

Vests, big sweaters and jean jackets are also all very popular. They are all very comfortable, like the flannel they can provide both style and comfort. Referring to sweaters senior Katie Haas explains, "you still look put together well without trying." Haas says that she wears sweaters up to four times each week. Depending on where you purchase them they can be relatively inexpensive. Vests and big sweaters can be worn by both girls and boys while the jean jacket is much more of a girl thing. Although, some guys definitely do rock a nice jean jacket.

There is also the very popular leather jacket. They were very in last fall and winter seasons. They are usually black or brown. Senior Martina Lofquist says that they are her favorite fall attire: "a leather jacket is too hot for summer, too cold for winter."

As far as pants go I would assume all of you know how popular leggings are. They are senior Haley Cedarholm's favorite thing to wear. Cedarholm says that she wears them a few times a week. Her reasoning for this is that they don't require "too much effort". I would say that almost all, if not all, girls rep leggings at least once a week. If a girl has not worn leggings before, in my opinion they are missing out on some serious style and comfort.

Another style of pants is comfortable



Junior Emma Daly wearing tall leather boots with straps and a buckle

sweatpants. These are popular with both guys and girls for many reasons. They don't take much effort, everyone seems to own a least one pair and they are extremely comfortable. Fall and winter attire both have a color pallet of mainly dark articles of clothing. A good pop of color is a scarf. Scarves come in many different colors and patterns making them very useful to keep color in your wardrobe during these seasons.

Besides all of these popular and good looking articles of clothing and shoes, there are a slew of ugly things that should never be worn. The biggest issue right now would have



Senior Katie Haas rocks an oversized sweater

to be jean on jean. You should never wear jean on jean. You are defying all rules of fashion and you probably don't look good. Jean jackets and very cute and so are some jeans, but definitely not together. Please don't do that.

Another huge issue is shorts when it is too cold out. If you can see your breath, I shouldn't be able to see your legs. Wearing shorts with tights does not make it any better. Now you look cold and ridiculous. Also, wearing Uggs with a skirt or shorts does not even out your temperature ratio. You just look weather confused.



Senior Katie Haas wearing tall laced up boots

AP VS. COLLEGE CREDIT

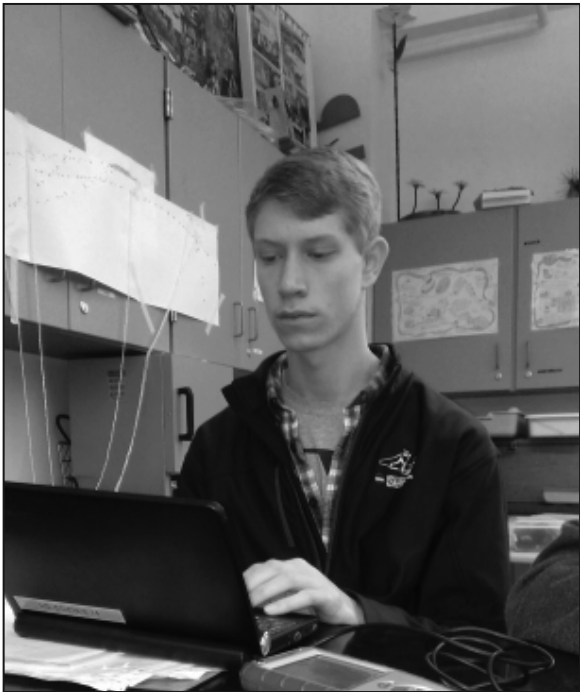


Landon Burt
Op-Ed Writer

classmen. Many of us also try to take classes that will look impressive to colleges, on a high school transcript. There are two types of advanced classes that we are able to take here at ORHS that can get us prepared for the future.

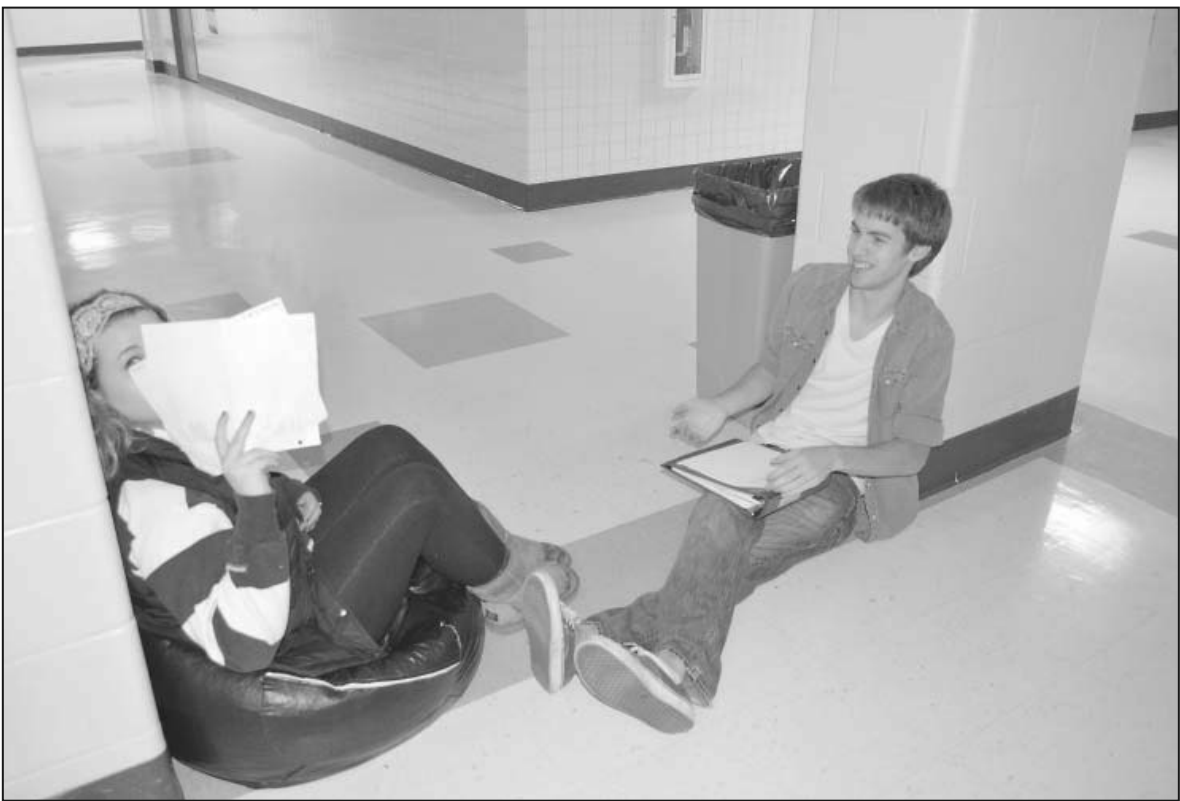
AP “Advanced Placement” are classes that are offered at our high school for those that excel and/or would like to be challenged by an advanced curriculum. Many students consider these classes to be very tough and stressful at times, but can eventually be worth it. Certain AP classes extend to two periods in order to fit in as much curriculum as possible. “Having two periods made AP physics way easier to space out the information that we learned.” Said Colby Runk who took AP Psychics as a junior. “I thought of these classes to be fairly difficult but not overwhelming” says Senior Gus Loureiro who has taken a couple AP classes this year.

One of the biggest differences that set these two apart is the AP exam at the end of the year. The exam covers everything that you have learned throughout the year, and if you receive a 3 or higher you can earn college credit for the class.



Jon Dana working hard on a lab report.

As we begin to move toward the end of our high school career, we all begin to have the options of what classes we choose. We are able to choose more classes that interest us instead of the mandatory classes we had to take as under-



Students Studying hard for the Anatomy Test

“I [found] these classes to be fairly difficult but not overwhelming”
- Gus Loureiro

College credit courses are certain classes are offered at our schools that are considered to be “College Level” courses. They are taught like any other class at ORHS and “regular” amounts of homework are given. A program called “Jumpstart” allows you to pay \$150 and receive 3 college credits through several different colleges such as Great Bay Community College and SNHU. “I think that the \$150 is definitely worth the credits that you receive.” quoted Logan Aldrich a senior at ORHS The only other requirement to receiving these credits is getting a C or higher in the class. These credits can be transferred to several colleges all around the country and can save you a lot of money in the long run.

Which one is best for you? “It really depends on what majors you are interested in at the college level, but both look impressive on a high school application”. Says Heather Machanoff, a Guidance Counselor here at Oyster River. Deciding between the two of these options can be very difficult because of so many factors. Although you do have to pay money for the college credit courses, they do tend to be a lot less stressful and less rigorous because your main goal is just maintain a decent grade above a C, while people in AP classes have to worry about keeping a steady grade on top of doing well on the AP test at the end of the year. Certain classes that are offered at Oyster River may only be one or the other such as AP history or Psychology. Many kids also take both college credit and AP classes in order to receive as much college credit as possible. “I found

both options to be about the same and not as difficult as imagined” quoted Nick Bernier, who is a senior at ORHS that has taken several AP and college level courses. Oyster River is one of the few schools in the area where you are able to graduate with almost a full semester of college under your belt, which can be beneficial in so many ways.

Some classes in our school that have college credits are:

- Psychology
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Adobe computer class
- Childhood Development
- Computer Essentials

Some AP classes that are offered at our school include:

- AP stats
- AP Bio
- AP U.S. History
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics

GRAND THEFT AUTO

Safe for Children?



James Tuliano
Op-Ed Writer

When playing a video game, what do you think is crossing the line? Killing innocent people? Torture? Nudity? Putting a man in the trunk of your car and pushing said car off a cliff and watching the car explode? How about setting a man on fire and watching him scream and burn to death? In Grand Theft Auto 5, you can do all of these things.

Looking past all of the controversy, Grand Theft Auto 5 quickly became one of the bestselling video games of all time. Earning \$800 million dollars on its first day of release, GTA 5 broke 7 Guinness world records (including holding the title of being the highest grossing video game in 24 hours).

Even though the video game sold very well, parents often criticize the hostile nature of the video game. There appears to be no boundary to how far Rockstar, the company behind Grand Theft Auto 5, will go. Sex and nudity, shooting someone's brain out and torturing an innocent person are just some examples of what makes this game so notorious in the industry.

Grand Theft Auto 5 has the ESRB rating of M for Mature, containing "blood and gore, intense violence, mature humor, nudity, strong language, strong sexual content, and use of drugs and alcohol."

Previous Grand Theft Auto entries caught the attention of Lawyer Jack Thompson, who claimed that Grand Theft Auto is a "murder simulator," and attempted to ban the video game series all together. Unsuccessful, Thompson kept protesting against the video game to the point where Rockstar included a parody of him in the previous Grand Theft Auto installment Grand Theft Auto 4. Upon noticing the similarities between a lawyer you have to assassinate in the game and himself, Thompson confronted Rockstar and claimed that he will do everything in his power to remove the parody of himself from the game, but he was ultimately unsuccessful. The character that Thompson was referring to in the video game was a lawyer who claimed "guns don't kill people, video games do," right before he is shot to death by the protagonist.

Thompson is not the only person who spoke out against the series. Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or MADD, protested that the game should take out the ability to get drunk and drive. The video game shakes the camera and causes the controls that you use to drive the car to not func-

tion correctly. MADD attempted to raise the ESRB rating of the game to Adults Only, which would cause most retailers not to sell the video game in their store. Their attempts were ultimately unsuccessful.

Fast forward to 2013, Grand Theft Auto 5 has been released and quickly became the fastest selling video game ever. Controversy was fast to follow its release, primarily focusing on an in game mission called "By the Book". During this mission, you are forced to torture an innocent man to near death. You are forced to pick from a variety of tools to perform unspeakable acts of violence onto the other person. The mission must be played if players want to keep playing on in the video game.

Shortly after you torture the man, the game throws in an anti-torture message during in-game dialog between the torturer and the person that just was tortured. The protagonist makes a remark on how torture is a useless method of integration and is only used so that the torturer can have fun with the person being tortured. This adds a very satirical spin to the mission, which is something the Grand Theft Auto series is known for.

Even though it is not meant to be taken seriously, is it still okay to force the user to perform unspeakable acts of violence in order for the game to make a political statement? With technology so rapidly advancing, the realism of the mission makes it look more like a movie than a video game. This is what perhaps makes it the most chilling. The entire video game



doesn't look like a video game; it looks like you are controlling living, breathing human beings.

"I think people are overreacting," expresses long time Grand Theft Auto player Alec Czepiel. "It's only a video game."

Some people think that while the video game doesn't have any direct consequences, it can have some indirect consequences. For example: the National Rifle Association blamed violent video games for the Sandy Hook shooting and calling the makers of violent video games "electronic child molesters," as the NRA believes that they are corrupting children with their content.

When it all comes down to it, video games are not harming anybody. If you think you'll be offended, don't play it. Your children won't stay innocent forever, it's not going to ruin their life if they see something bad in a video game or movie.



Senior Noah Hardekopf playing GTA 5.

“WHO ARE YOU TEXTING MORE THAN FIFTY TIMES A DAY?”
“IDK My BFF Jill?”



Alyssa Bangrazi
Op-Ed Guest
Writer

silently praying that you won't be called on to participate.

Oyster River's policy on cell phones and other electronic devices in class, as seen in the student handbook, is as follows: "Electronic devices such as pagers and cellular phones are not allowed to be used during class time or in the library and should be turned off in these areas. The use of personal listening devices such as iPods should not interfere with the day-to-day operations of the school. Students who use them in such manner that it interferes with others will be expected to turn them in to a teacher or administrator upon request." However as we all can see, this policy is rarely applied and often times is adjusted by each individual teacher.

Senior Emily Howard is a student who does not text in the classroom at all, however she explains that if she were able to text in class without getting in trouble or her grade being affected then she would. So why doesn't she text in the classroom? "One reason is because my phone is so embarrassing that I don't want to be seen with it. Two, I don't know, I don't want teachers to get mad at me," Howard says. She also thinks that not using a phone in class has a possible benefit to her grade. It is not uncommon to see cell phones being used in classrooms, and Howard states that she doesn't think that they act as a distraction to herself personally, "but I know it is a distraction to the teacher."

Unlike Howard, avid texter and senior Lizzie Attisano states, "[I text in class] probably most of the time if I don't get caught," as she receives a text. Attisano explains

"Stop smiling at your crotch." Ever heard this before? You're sitting in class texting your BFF Jill. Your phone is down in front of you, sneakily hidden behind your desk. The teacher is in the middle of a discussion that you pretend you're paying attention to and you're

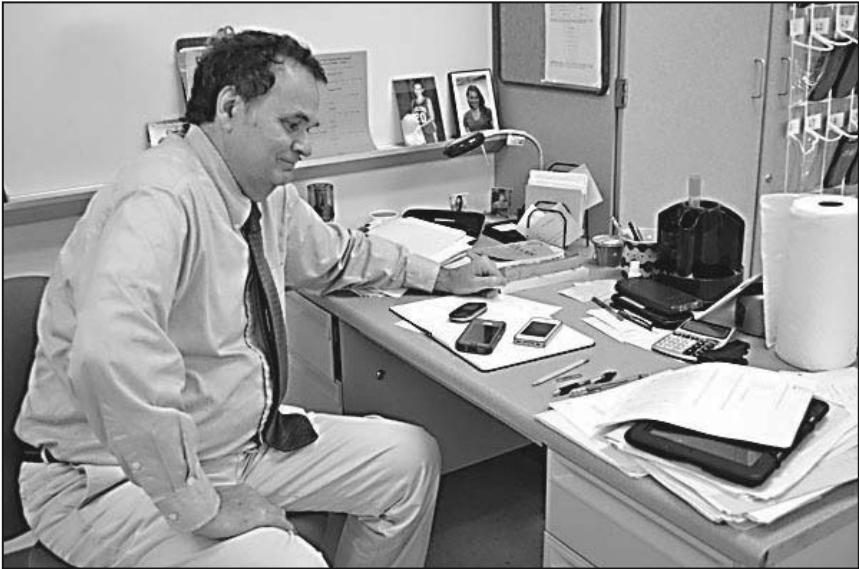
she texts in five out of seven classes. "I don't text in Shakespeare and I can't text in Psychology," she shares. Typically she texts friends and occasionally her mom. So why not wait until after class? "I really couldn't tell you. I mean, everyone does it," she explains. Often cellphones are thought to be a considerable distraction in the classroom however, Attisano shares that, "sometimes [it can be a distraction], but it depends on who I'm texting and what class I'm texting in... If I'm doing homework I won't really text. If I'm taking notes I won't text."

Attisano's mother, Regina Smick-Attisano agrees that texting is "... A distraction if students are texting during a class versus engaging in the classroom activities or listening to the discussion. You cannot do two things at once (no matter what teens think about being multitaskers) so if you are texting that is where your focus will be. The person that really loses out is the student." However, Smick-

Attisano admits that she is one of the people Lizzie texts. "I am hopeful she is texting during the change of classes but [I'm] not always sure that is the case." Although Smick-Attisano decides to text her daughter during school she states that, "I don't think there are any benefits to texting in class - I do think there are benefits to utilizing smart phones in a classroom setting for researching an answer, for recording lectures, and taking pictures of notes."

If Attisano were caught texting in Derek Cangelo's class, she would lose a point on her quarter grade. "My

policy is no cell phones in class," Cangelo strongly states. This policy derived from "kids tend[ing] to push the envelope. If you just say, 'no cell phones' or you're going to give them a detention... I'm not going



Nichols collecting students' cellphones.

to give a high school student a detention. I just don't see the point. I think you have to hit them where it's going to affect them the most." Don't let this policy scare you

"...You cannot do two things at once (no matter what teens think about being multitaskers) so if you are texting that is where your focus will be."

-Mrs. Smick-Attisano

though, Cangelo often allows cell phone usage to access the internet when the network is down in the school, or when students put homework into their phones. Also, if students need to text their parents for whatever reason and there is

nothing going on in class, he shares that it's fine if the students texts, "I'm not that hard."

There never used to be a strict policy in Cangelo's class, until he got sick of constantly telling students to put their phones away. "I mean, I'm not going to be sitting up there teaching or doing something and pull my phone out and just start [texting]." Cangelo shares that cell phones in class are a huge distraction to everyone, "no one wins," he says.

Likewise with Cangelo's rule, Dave Nichols' policy is, "I don't want to see them while I'm teaching." However, Nichols continues to say, "I don't mind if you take them out once you start homework. I don't mind if [you] take them out to listen to music or use it as a calculator for homework." Nichols' policy came from the fact that the school didn't really have any defined rules on cell phones, so he decided to come up with his own policy for the classroom. When Nichols sees students using their phone in an inappropriate way, he states that he "generally take[s] the phone away. Or [he] might tell them to put it away." (continued on page 24)



Attisano texting in Nichols' class.

Texting, Continued From Page 23

Occasionally when he takes a student's phone, he gives it to the assistant principal. Or when students are constantly caught using their phones in class he brings it to the office, and has the student pick it up at the end of the day.

The only time Nichols finds it to be an appropriate time to use a cell phone in class is for emergency situations, and even then he

would rather the student take it out into the hall or the stairwell instead of in the middle of class. Cell phone usage is not rare in Nichols' classes, "it's happening everyday, every period," he says. Con-

trary to popular belief however, both Cangello and Nichols state that they have never noticed a trend in students' grades between those who text in class and those who don't.

In my opinion the policy on cell phones should be up to each individual teacher. The so called "policy" we have right now is not enforced whatsoever. Teachers are creating policies that they see best fit in their class-

rooms, and I don't think that that should be tampered with. The teachers know what will best work in their classes, so I don't think that the administration should make a general rule.

One reason I believe that is because students are less likely to abide by it and another reason is, I think that the school will have a harder time enforcing the rule if it's not just applicable in the classroom.

I also believe that turning off cell phones is a bad idea simply for emergency reasons. Not only do the students have their phones on but the teachers typically do as well. I think it would be hypocritical if the teachers ask students to turn off their phones, while they keep theirs on.

Furthermore, I also believe that as high school students, you are old enough to know the difference between right and wrong. If you don't pay attention in class, that will

reflect in your grade. I don't think that the school should try and act like it's their responsibility; they shouldn't have to baby you. They should allow you to deal with our own consequences instead of attempt to prevent them.

I also believe that the rules should omit the restriction on cell phones in the library, because when students are in the library they are typically there on their own free time. The student

should be able to decide how they divvy out their time. If they choose to text or go on social networking instead of doing their work, they should deal with their own repercussions. With that being said, if a class is to go to the library, the teacher should be able to regulate the student's phone usage. By the school creating rules such as no phones allowed, even in places like the library, it will create a lot of rebellion. Students will use their phones despite the rules, and it should be up to them to deal with their own conse-



Nichols playing the role of a student, texting in class.

"Sometimes [it can be a distraction], but it depends on who I'm texting and what class I'm texting in... If I'm doing homework I won't really text. If I'm taking notes I won't text."

-Lizzie Attisano



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FALL SEASON WRAPUPS

Final Look into the 2013 Fall Sports Season



Alex Morrell
Sports Editor

With the fall sports season at a close, let's look back on how they went. Girls soccer, finishing 11th in the regular season with a record of 7-7-2, lost to Coe-Brown 2-1 in the first round of playoffs. The varsity team started the season with six freshmen on the roster and added few more throughout the season. "Having a young team meant putting a lot of time into the basics, getting them used to how we play, and the demand of playing on a varsity team.," says junior Desiree LaPanne. "We lost a lot of our games with less than five minutes left in the game. We would have had a better record if we were able to keep consistency. Next year should go a lot smoother than this season, as every high school team goes through their rebuilding years. We need to carry over our offense to next year, we just finally got it working towards the end of the season," LaPanne adds.

Boys soccer had a spectacular season finishing 4th in the regular season with a record of 12-2-2. Oyster River won in the first round of playoffs against Saint Thomas in a 2-0 shutout. In the second round, Oyster River won in a close 2-1 match against Leba-

ular season, had a hard fought year but didn't quite make the cut for playoffs. Seniors Brenna Walzcak, China Wong, and Selia Libby stuck by their teammates during the rough season. Sophomore Sam Walker is certain there are things to improve on for next season. "I hope that next season we can play more as a team and not six individuals occupying space and I think as a whole we need to take away the silly mental mistakes," she adds.

Not making it into the top 12 to qualify for states, the golf team had a disappointing season. Junior and co-captain Ashley Tewksbury reflects on the season saying "towards the beginning of the season, I felt like we didn't realize how [not being focused]



Boys cross country team posing after clinching the Division 2 State Championship.

advise any future field hockey player to get aggressive in the offensive circle and score goals because you never win games when you don't score," said senior field hockey member Amanda Souvannaseng.

The cross-country team completed the season with an impressive Division 2 State

Photo Credit: Desiree LaPanne



Boys soccer team lines up before a game.

non. Entering the semifinals, Oyster River played Windham High School, which was ranked 2nd during regular season. Playing at Exeter High School, the Bobcats took on the Jaguars on the turf under the lights on a brisk November night. Oyster River fell to Windham 2-1. Starting goalie, junior, Jon Dutka explains, "this season was the best one I've been a part of. We prepared and trained well while getting along with each other very well. Next year we need to build upon what we achieved this year by continuing to come together as a team and stay focused and determined on our goal of a state championship."

- Jon Dutka

Girls volleyball, finishing 13th in the reg-

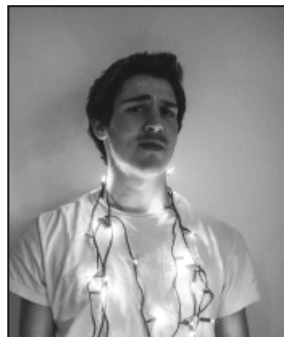
would affect us in the long run. Leading up to our final matches, we started to realize that we needed to play well in order to make it into states." Looking to next season, Tewksbury adds "We're only losing two seniors, Pat Madden and Noah Hardkopf, so hopefully we can use what we learned this season and grow from it."

Girls field hockey finished 13th with a final record of three wins and nine losses. "The season was great; there were a lot of games that we only lost by a goal however this seriously killed us when it came to the end of the season. Our group dynamics and chemistry were solid this year and when we focused, we played very impressive hockey. I would

Championship! With eight regular season meets and three postseason or championship meets, "it really helped that we were such a close team that loved to race and train and spend time together," comments senior Drew Thibault. The men's team that clinched the championship included Thibault, along with Cam Barth, Will Stone, Jeremy Howland, Neil Mistretta, Jason Shamesman, and Patrick O'Brien. Thibault adds, "it felt awesome to win the championship especially since we lost last year and worked so hard this summer and season to get it back. It was also amazing to win the Meet of Champions because an Oyster River team has not won since 1987, so we were able to make history to a degree."

PARK CITY

A Glance Into the World of Corey Parker



Matthew Segil
Editor In-Chief

The Athletic Director (AD) is a position of decision-making, responsibility and power. In control of student interactions with athletics and maintaining an iron grip on academic expectations, one man sits behind the chair of ultimate control. This man's name is Corey Parker.

Parker arrived in the Oyster River school district in the fall of 2011 replacing former AD Don Maynard. "I had been the AD for 5 years and honestly I really enjoyed most of it. The part that was getting to me was that there had never seemed to be any let up even, in the summer," said Maynard. Although change can often be daunting for a student body Parker says "the faculty here was extremely welcoming as were the students and coaches I think the transition was very smooth and I was very lucky for that."

So what exactly does Parker do behind that desk filled with mysterious scraps of paper and pencils? Sophomore Kevin Kerrigan comments "Well he makes all of the schedules, organizes practices and communicates with the coaches/parents." Parker's definition is perhaps slightly wordier. "I am the conduit for the school district to be the representative and administrator to oversee all the student athletes, fans, parents, coaches, to carry on the school mission

"You get to be around sports all day and spend your time with athletes, that doesn't sound like a bad gig to me"
-Colby Runk

else related to student athletes. Parker says his least favorite part of the job is "Dealing with a situation where an athlete has made a bad decision and we have to consider consequences for the athlete." Oyster River has a strict policy regarding student representation of a sports program, and when an unfortunate incident does happen, Parker's ready to drop the hammer.

When he's not dishing out consequences part of Parker's job is reinforcing the academic aspect of being a student-athlete. The academic handbook states "A student must attain a minimum grade point average of 1.0 (D average) with no more than one F or Incomplete as well as

pass four units of work (credit classes), during the previous marking period." To some, these standards may seem unreasonable as a qualification to play sports but Senior Colby Runk disagrees saying, "All you have to do is show up and do the work to get above a 1.0 gpa. If you can't maintain that average, school should be your main concern not sports."

One of Parker's close friends and companions Geoff Jablonski says "The marriage of academics and sports are where life lessons are learned from learning precious people skills to learning how to properly manage your time to be able to accomplish everything that needs to get done, in the classroom and on the field." Jablonski believes that playing a sport is more than just a fun way to stay in shape. It's a lifestyle and a great way to improve yourself. Jablonski, who is "Not particularly" interested in being an AD, does have a great deal



Colby Runk juggling in the locker room. Photo: Sam Colby

of continual education through sports."

Not only does Parker organize sporting events and practice times but he handles everything

of respect for Parker's work. One thing Jablonski would change is "get Corey an assistant that can help with the day-to-day rigors of the job. The job has a lot of moving



Parker at work. Photo: Sam Colby

parts and another helping hand could only do just that, help."

On to another issue regarding the AD and student athletes: team spirit, often referred to, as "team steeze" is when a team dresses up in a similar fashion to promote recognition of their game. This notably became an issue with certain team spirits taking things too far. Parker says that the policies haven't changed but how said policies are enforced has. "Up until this year teams were really given free range until they kind of stubbed their toe in a way that affected the team in a negative light or challenged the school dress code. And at the point we made it universal that the teams had to come in to approve it (team spirit) prior to."

Coming in to approve a team spirit shouldn't be a huge deal, but some view Parker's powers of ultimate decision as unfair. "Unless the team spirit is breaking the dress code I don't know why we can't do it," says Kerrigan. This being said certain team spirits (notably when the boys lacrosse team dressed as birds) do have a history of being in-class distractions. Realistically team spirit will continue, but perhaps more moderately in an effort to avoid clashes between teams and regulations.

Maynard who never had any major issues with team spirit found challenges in more intrinsic aspects of the job. "You don't know anybody and you just see them as athletes and I struggled with that part of it," says Maynard. Now as a gym teacher May

NOT YOUR AVERAGE SPORT



Alyssa Bangrazi
*Guest Sports
Writer*

Take a deep breath, concentrate and relax. Picture what it is you want to do. As your feet begin to move your body surges with adrenaline. As you spring off the floor you feel a sudden weightlessness. You move fluently, fluidly, gracefully and you feel wonderfully free. Although parkour may be a difficult and fairly dangerous sport, the enjoyment the parkourers get when they flip around the floor is greater than that of any danger.

“Last year we had approximately 71% of our student body take part in at least one sport [through the school],” says Oyster River’s Athletic Director Corey Parker. “Although athleticism and school pride is a big part of the Oyster River community, we never account for those who participate in sports through other organizations. We often judge the sports that we don’t know about because they aren’t as common as school sports. Many of you would be surprised with some of the incredible sports that your peers participate in.”

Evan Gordon is a sophomore who has been on a competition jump rope team called Extreme Air of New Hampshire for six years. Gordon was introduced to jump rope by a past member whom he met while practicing at the UNH track in Durham. The past member often brought his rope to practice, which sparked Gordon’s interest. “I thought it was really cool, so I asked about it. Then I went online and found the information about tryouts,” he explains.

Practices are held on weekends and last between four to five hours at the St. Thomas More church gym. They are also held on Tuesday and Thursday nights at the Newmarket Elementary School gym for a total of three hours each night. Gordon, along with his twenty three teammates, practice extremely hard for two competitions: regionals and nationals. Nationals are composed of “four rigorous days filled with freestyle and speed events both individual and group... There is one minute speed, three minute speed, a speed relay with single rope... double dutch [pairs speed and double dutch speed relay]. [Freestyle] is again individual and group events. There [are] double dutch events [such as double dutch singles freestyle and double dutch pairs freestyle], and single rope events,” explains Gordon. These competitors travel all around the United States to compete against teams from across the country.

One of Gordon’s top achievements was that he, along with two other teammates, “made it to grand nationals three years in a row, which is the top twelve scorers in an event regardless of age. Two [of the]



*Gordon competing at nationals in California.
Photo: Christine Bangrazi*

years we placed third in the nation overall at grand nationals.” Gordon explains that jump rope is highly criticized by some people; “people have opinions about it that may not be positive, but then when they see it, they are pleasantly surprised.”

Katelin Lawrence is a senior who has been horseback riding for about twelve years, after first gaining interest due to her family owning horses. Both her grandfather and her uncle had horses. “My aunt bought me a horseback riding lesson for my fifth birthday, and I’ve just never stopped,” she shares.

Lawrence rides at a barn in Somersworth called Hilltop Equestrian Center a couple of times a week where she used to take lessons, but now only rides a horse that she leases out named Twist. She also rides at her house with her personal horses, Gus and Flash. She and her horses travel around for local competitions, where she competes in three phases. “It focuses on three strengths of the horse. [Including] discipline and dressage,” which is the method of training a horse to perform tasks in response to certain hand signals given by the rider, “their accuracy and stadium jumping, and their endurance and cross country,” Lawrence continues. She finds that horseback riding is a good stress reliever and is simply fun to do.

One common stereotype people form about horseback riding is that they think that riders just sit on their horses and do nothing. To avoid these stereotypes, Lawrence suggests to simply “get out there and do it.” She continues to joke and say, “see how sore you are the next day and then come tell me how easy it is.”

Similar to typical school sports, Brendon Ouellette is a sophomore who has been a competitive wrestler for two years on a

team at St. Thomas Aquinas. After gaining interest in wrestling through television and other media, Ouellette was pleasantly surprised when he found out that the school had its own wrestling team. The practices are after school everyday at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, where he and six other



*Lawrence and her horse, Gus.
Photo: Tricia Lawrence*

teammates compete. “I like to workout a lot, and learn new things,” Ouellette explains. One thing that Ouellette doesn’t like, however, is “maintaining [his] weight.” Ouellette continues to say, “if you don’t maintain your weight, you don’t wrestle; so you have to watch what you eat and you have to burn a consistent amount of calories.”

(Continued on page 28)

WINTER SPORTS RIVALRIES



Sadie Moore
Guest Sports
Writer

With the winter sports season starting up, it can be hard to decide which games to attend. To prepare for freezing hockey arenas or gyms without enough bleachers, it's important to know the games to go to.

Boys Hockey

Boy's hockey is a highly attended sport here at Oyster River. With UNH's Division 1 hockey team's right down the road the Whittemore center is a great facility that they play at. It is a huge heated ice arena that can seat 6,500. The boys have been successful in the past with a record of 8-4-5. After losing nine seniors from the last season it will be interesting to see how the team comes together. They have two games against their rival Spaulding and the boys will want revenge after losing to them in the quarter finals last year. When they play at the Rochester Ice Arena which is only 20 minutes away, be sure to get there early because there are only a few sets of small bleachers which fill up quickly. Dover is also a good game to go to but their ice arena is very cold.

Saturday March 1
TBA Spaulding High School

Wednesday January 88:00PM
@ Spaulding High
School 20 minutes away

Monday December 16 6:00PM
Dover High School

Wednesday February 26 7:00PM
@ Dover High School 15 minutes away
110 Portland Ave · Dover

Girl's hockey

The girls hockey team went to the championships last season. With some of their star players from last year being juniors and seniors this year the team has a lot of potential. They are no longer playing at Jackson's Landing and are at the Whit this year which is much more comfortable for fans. After losing to Hanover in the championships senior captain Sandra Stroger says "Hanover will be a good game because they're a top team in the division and it's always a close game when we play them." As with many other sports St. Thomas is a rival. Senior Maggie MacNamara says "St. Thomas likes to trash talk us every year, but it only makes us want to win even more. The games against them are always exciting."

Thursday January 2, 7:30PM
@ St. Thomas Aquinas HS
15 minutes away



Last Years Boys Hockey Team Winning the Holiday Tournament.

Photo Credit: Felicia Sperry

Saturday January 25 12:30PM
St. Thomas Aquinas

Monday January 20 12:30PM
Hanover

Swimming

Although they didn't win last year the boys swimming team had a solid winning streak in past years. Senior Drew Thibault says: "The Bobcat Invitational or the Holiday Invitational are the best to go to because they feature a lot of fast swimmers with good competition." The girls swimming and diving won the championships last year! There is some good competition. "Hanover is definitely the one to be at!" Says senior Haley Jones. Hanover is a big rival because they beat them in championships last year in a race by six tenths of a second. "With big meets there's a lot of competition, but a lot of sitting around for the people watching. Dual meets are a bit shorter, and can be really fun to watch especially if the team is a big rival," says junior Charlotte Moore. The meets are held at the UNH indoor pool which is very big with lots of bleachers.

Sunday December 29 9:00AM Holiday Invitational

Sunday January 26 8:00AM Bobcat Invitational

Boys Basketball

The entire student section fills up at boys basketball games here at Oyster River. With it being an indoor sport and the players are so close it is easy to cheer and more of an interactive game. It can get very warm in the gym for fans and players. Coe brown was in the final four last season and was a big competitor. Oyster River won by two points the last time they played Coe-Brown and Coe-Brown won by six points the time before. When games are close like that it is helpful to have fans cheering their team on. The boys' home opener is vs. rival Portsmouth High. They had two very close games last

season that both resulted in losses. Portsmouth high is only 20 minutes away and they have a huge gym with plenty of seating. The opposing fans sit on bleachers across from each other so the interaction is mostly trying to out-cheer each other. Senior Nick Lazar says both of these teams will be "big games." He is hopeful for the season and predicts that "this year we'll win in every game and win most. Our schedule is almost the same as last year and our league is way down all around."

Tuesday February 25th 6:30PM Coe-Brown

Friday December 20th 6:30 Portsmouth

Friday January 17th at 7 at Coe brown 25 minutes away

Tuesday February 11th 6:30 at Portsmouth 20 minutes away

Girls Basketball

The girls basketball team has a new coach for the JV and varsity team. They lost many seniors but maybe the new ideas from the coach can pull them along. They had juniors and freshman on the team last year who have some big shoes to fill but could definitely do well. "I'm excited to see how the season goes because it really could go any way. Coe-Brown and Portsmouth will be really fun games," says senior Claire Salmon. Having some more fans at the game will be great!

Friday December 20th 6:30 at Portsmouth

Tuesday February 11th 6:30
Coe-brown

Thursday January 16th 6:30 Portsmouth

Monday 24th of February 7 At Coe-brown

Not Your Average Sport, Continued From Page 27

One thing that wrestling is often perceived as is “two guys grabbing each other,” Ouellette tells, “it’s not, it’s really mostly about strategy. You have to figure the other opponent out, what he knows, what he can do, and you have to work off of that.” Wrestling tournaments are based off of double and sometimes single elimination. “You go against someone who’s your weight through the whole thing, and you wrestle in a bracket. If you win you go up, if you lose, you go to a losers bracket,” Oullette tells. One of Ouellette’s top achievements was that he won states as a freshman.

Unlike wrestling, sailing is a more team oriented sport. Haley Cedarholm is a senior at Oyster River who has been sailing “since [she] was very little, because [her] dad always had boats.” She began taking lessons when a friend told her that she was interested, so Cedarholm agreed to take lessons along with her. “I ended up joining the team that’s associated with the program. I did that in the summer, and then the team in the following spring,” she explains. Practices are between April and August at the UNH Community Sailing Center, and take place on Mendum’s Pond.

In the summer, practices are everyday; then “in the spring practices are four times a week with regattas on the weekend.” Cedarholm participates on two different teams. The team in the spring is one that anyone can join, no matter their ability. The other one in the

“...it’s really mostly about strategy. You have to figure the other opponent out, what he knows, what he can do, and you have to work off of that.”

-Brendon Ouellette

summer is for those who know what they are doing. The spring team has about fifteen sailors, and the team in the summer has about ten or twelve of them.

There are two different kinds of racing, fleet racing and team racing. Usually Cedarholm’s team does fleet racing, which is “basically a race like any other race, but you’re on the water so you can’t control when the start is. So there’s a start line, and you have to try to get as close to the start line and be on the line when the start is. Then you just go through the course, and whoever finishes the course first wins,” Cedarholm explains.

Some of her team’s top achievements include winning the New Hampshire State Championship last year, and also the Saco Bay Team Race this year. “I really like how it’s like an individual sport, but you work with people on your team.... and I just like being out on the water,” Cedarholm says.

Unlike all of the sports

listed above, Parkour is not competitive nor is it done through a team. Alec Czepiel is a senior at Oyster River, who participated in a parkour class held at Atlantic Gymnastics along with a few friends. “Me and [my] friends who did it just kinda like [said] ‘oh



*Cedarholm’s boat launch.
Photo: Nick Pfofi*

this sounds pretty cool, let’s give it a try’ and we liked it,” Czepiel shares. One thing that Czepiel enjoyed about parkour was that it was, “really active. There was always a chance for you to get hurt which is fun, I think.” Czepiel continues to share that “there wasn’t really much I didn’t like about it. Sometimes the coach, Rick, was pretty tough.” To see parkour in action, check out www.mornewspaper.com to view our featured video.

Park City, Continued From Page 15

Maynard is able to interact with students more and find the connections he was seeking. Maynard remains stoic in his opinion of the position, saying “Athletics teaches people a lot of different things, I’m one of those people that believes athletics is really an extension of a classroom.” Jablonski remembers that one especially crazy day while accompanying Parker “There was a golf match at The Oaks, a middle school soccer DH at the MS (middle school), a field hockey game at ORHS, a volleyball game at ORHS and a soccer game at

ORHS all in one afternoon.” The life of the AD is crazy but exciting at the same time. Being in the AD position doesn’t just mean organizing everything and then just sitting back and let everything happen. The non-stop humdrum of this life isn’t for everyone, and it’s the very reason that Maynard left. So next time you need to stop in and ask Parker a question, give him a break if things are a little busy. Parker’s favorite part of the job is “Interacting with the student athletes and seeing them learn lifelong lessons through

sports”. Parker cites this as being what he loves most about the AD position. So basically Parker works hard to promote student sports while keeping academics in check. Runk seems to think Parker has it all figured out referencing it as a possible future job. “Do I have interest in an AD position? It would be kind of cool I guess. You get to be around sports all day and spend your time with athletes. That doesn’t sound like a bad gig to me.”

Winter Sports Rivalries, Continued From Page 28

Winter Track

Track is a team of about 50 Oyster River students. Going to a track meet is a good opportunity to see lots of peers compete with an array of events. “It has such an intense atmosphere filled with cheering

and intense focus,” explains senior Amanda Souvannaseng. There is a wide range of ages. It is held in the UNH Field House. Although there’s limited seating this gives you the opportunity to be up close to the action. “The buzz of a track meet is so exciting and

there’s always something to watch,” says senior Laura Olivier. With lots of activities check out the home opener track meet.

December 14th, 9:30am @ UNH Field House

CLEAN SLATE

A Dave-For-Dave Switch



Brenna Walczak
Sports Writer

Dave Nichols, long time Oyster River High School basketball coach of 24 years, no longer holds his previous position as the head girls' varsity basketball coach. Dave Burrows, former player for Bryant University, now takes his place as head coach. "The administration decided to move in another direction with the girls' basketball program at the conclusion of last season," said ORHS's athletic director Corey Parker. He believes that Burrows and junior varsity coach Jeannie Allyson have the "enthusiasm, experience both as a player and coach, and appreciation of fundamentals," to improve the play of the varsity and junior varsity teams.

When asked why the school felt it was time for a coaching change, Parker responded with, "respectfully, we do not discuss coaching decisions." He later stated that "when you have a change in varsity head coaches it is assumed practice styles and philosophies will be different to some degree." Parker hopes that even though all coaching contracts are renewed annually Burrows will want to "plant [his] roots and establish a program... [and] be here for the long term." When Nichols was asked about the coaching change he responded with "I am sad about no longer coaching girls' basketball at Oyster River. I will miss the daily contact with the players and the friendships I made over the years with other coaches, officials and many parents."

Burrows has worked previously with the students of Oyster River. He was the head coach for the ORHS reserve boys basketball



Underclassmen girls conditioning to prepare for the upcoming winter season.

team in 2011. He has had about 6-8 years of coaching experience from working with the districts ORYA sports program. Parker thinks that "he will be a different voice [for] the program."

While speaking with Burrows, Parker said that "[his] coaching philosophy mirror's [the school's] mission statement." The statement is as follows, "Oyster River High School promotes a safe and nurturing community where the uniqueness of each member is valued. In this spirit, we are committed to becoming educated, ethical, responsible citizens who strive to contribute positively toward the betterment of ourselves, our school, our society and our world." This also coordinates with what JV coach Allyson had to say about their new approach to coaching, "we are building strong athletes, whom we expect to excel both on and off the court. The girls who play for Coach Burrows and myself can expect to be challenged every day, to be better than they were the day before."

Overall the current players are hopeful with the new change. Senior Claire McCarthy, who has played for Nichols and will now be playing for Burrows, expressed that since the new coach has had experience with coaching ORYA teams, he realizes how crucial it is to unify that program with the high school. She believes that "the new approach towards a more combined JV and Varsity group will let the JV girls improve and know what they have to do to get better. This will let both teams come together as one team."

Freshman Isabelle Fradillada who has never played for Nichols or Burrows says

that, "I feel like there has been a lot of positive energy already going into basketball. Having new coaches has been a learning process for everyone so far. I feel like players and parents are excited to see how the season will pan out and if we do well under Burrows and Allyson's coaching techniques." Danielle Walczak, a previous player for Nichols who graduated three years ago says that "from my first impression [of Burrows], he has a wealth of basketball knowledge and is enthusiastic about getting girls passionate about basketball."

Although it is important the players feel good about the new directions that the program is taking, the parents in the program also have things to input. "I am optimistic about the new coaches," said Regina Attisano, parent of returning player Mary-Claire Attisano. "I believe all coaches at the high school level do coach for the love of the sport; how

they incorporate the love of the sport with the high school players goals and creating a team of the players, is a mark of a great coach." She believes that this coaching change could bring more players to the program, "there have been girls who stopped playing and now are attending the fall ball program so that is good."

Although Burrows has hopes of growing with the program he is not coy about what else he hopes to accomplish this upcoming season. "My goal is to make the tournament and compete for a championship." Which is almost every coaches ultimate goal for their team.



New head coaches Jeannie Allyson (left) and Dave Burrows (right).

DIFFERENT DIVISIONS

What Truly Divides Our School Sports



Kirsten Weiker
*Guest Sports
Writer*

“DIVISION CHAMPIONS”, something students and athletes alike hope to see at the end of a sports season. Now, everyone knows what the word “champion” means, but what about “division”? What is the difference between D1, D2, D3, and D4?

“We don’t go by how talented players or a team are in order to determine what division they go in.” Corey Parker, athletic director of Oyster River High School said right off the bat when asked about divisions. “I only start with that because people think that’s what it’s all about.” Parker explained.

Divisions are actually determined by school size, (See chart for enrollment requirements for divisions). Every two years schools must send the state their enrollment numbers. These are sent to the Classification Committee, who then sit and separate the numbers into the divisions as seen in the chart taken directly from the NHIAA handbook given to every athletic director.

“Just because a school is put into a division doesn’t mean they have to stay and compete there.” Parker said. After schools are divided into their divisions they are given smaller classification committees for each

individual sport. Those smaller committees have the option to petition up or down in the classifications. It has been found that it is easier to petition up, because they are trying to increase competition levels. To petition down takes a lot more convincing and proof. Schools must give that sport committee enrollment numbers, team records, and program growth. That sports committee then brings these things to the Classification Committee to view and discuss. From there the school will get the “Yay” or “Nay” on whether that specific sport can drop down to the lower division.

“I don’t know where the idea that divisions were split up by skill, because I was with the Committee for a while and that was never the case,” Don Maynard, once the athletic director for Oyster River High School and now Physical Education teacher here at the school said on the topic

“We don’t go by how talented players or a team are in order to determine what division they go in.”
-Corey Parker

Classification of Schools			
Schools may compete with any classification according to that sport's specific by-laws, during the regular season but may qualify only in their own classification based on point rating for that competition. These enrollment numbers were compiled from information submitted by Principals of NHIAA member schools as of October 1, 2011.			
DIV. I (1226+) 18 Schools	DIV. II (651-1225) 19 Schools	DIV. III (301-650) 29 Schools	DIV. IV (1-300) 24 Schools
Pinkerton 3168	Goffstown 1201	Stevens 649	Epping 277
Man. Central 2324	Portsmouth 1085	St. Thomas 643	Woodsville 273
Nashua South 2053	Milford 963	Laconia 628	Littleton 271
Man. Memorial 2040	Hollis Brookline 908	Pelham 623	Newmarket 262
Nashua North 1928	ConVal 905	Kearsarge 604	Derryfield 248
Concord 1860	Pembroke 899	Monadnock 601	Wilton 225
Londonderry 1707	Merrimack Valley 885	Fall Mountain 574	Moultonborough 221
Exeter 1703	Kennett 857	Somersworth 573	Nute 209
Keene 1582	Souhegan 857	Prospect Mnt. 537	Profile 184
Salem 1543	Bishop Guertin 854	Gilford 532	Hinsdale 181
Spaulding 1506	Kingswood 799	Bow 528	Ports. Christian at Dover 167
Merrimack 1450	John Stark 762	Campbell 493	Pittsfield 164
Dover 1437	Hanover 760	Conant 486	Groveton 159
Timberlane 1424	Sanborn 736	Winnisquam 481	Gorham 156
Alvirne 1400	Lebanon 727	Belmont 476	Sunapee 151
Bedford 1351	Coe-Brown 715	Hillsboro-Deering 470	Colebrook 144
Man. West 1304	Windham 708	Franklin 459	Lisbon 140
Winnacunnet 1235	Plymouth 688	Farmington 447	Lin-Wood 105
	Oyster River 681	Berlin 442	Canaan, Vt 68
		White Mountains 434	Concord Christian 66
		Newfound 422	Sant Bani 53
		Raymond 419	Pittsburg 33
		Trinity 417	Mount Royal Academy 31
		Mascoma 404	Mount Zion Christian 29
		Newport 390	
		Mascenic 379	
		Bishop Brady 362	
		Inter-Lakes 360	
		Hopkinton 316	

The classification chart given to every athletic director.
(Fig 1)

of sports divisions. He went on to say the only reason they changed from class to division was to make things easier to understand. “One two three four is much easier than the letter system they had. There’s little to no confusion when talking about standings anymore,” Maynard said.



A wall in Oyster River High School's Gym covered in State Championships won for division 2 sports.

ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Keeping the Spirit in Check



Brenna Walczak
Sports Writer

"I'm not really sure if the school is aware about what Athletic Council really does," said Senior council member Amanda Souvannaeng. "I wasn't even aware we had an Athletic Council to be honest," admitted senior Hannah Schmitt. "I could not name one person on it." Actually seven out of ten people asked could not name a single person on the council. To clear all of that up, the current members are Hannah Igoe, Jack Nimmo, Ryan Kerrigan, Adain Conrad, Amanda Souvannaeng, Liam Cahill, Grace Tauriello and Adele Ziemek. Currently, Parker has a few underclassmen prospects that may be joining the ranks. Every other Thursday a group of eight, bright-eyed upperclassmen meet with Corey Parker, Oyster River High School's (ORHS) Athletic Director and discuss the athletic happenings such as the Penguin Plunge and other fund-

ly Don Maynard, one of the current ORHS Physical Education teachers was the head of the Athletic Department and its Council. "I started the Athletic Council my first year as Athletic Director. It was one of the first things I did." Maynard started off by establishing a core group of student athletes that he could bounce ideas off of and that he could trust to "take on projects." The first core Athletic Council came up with the idea of the superfan and got it off of the ground. Superfan is a program that encourages ORHS students to attend sporting events. The students who attend the most events usually get a prize; the first year winner got a new laptop.

The council's primary job is handling changes to issues the school might be facing and to create fundraising possibilities. "Last year we upgraded the athlete alcohol and awareness policy," said Parker, "the academic expectations [of in-season athletes]

which is raising funds for Special Olympics. He added, "I'm hoping to roll out another [new fundraiser] this year." At the last meeting a large topic of interest was rewording the handbook to better specify where the differences are between varsity and junior varsity sports.

Last year one of the big revenue projects the Athletic Council worked on was introducing school apparel. "We have all of this school apparel and no one knows it's there. I think if people did know about it a lot of people would be buying it," said junior member Adele Ziemek.

At the moment the school's athletic apparel is being sold during lunches or if you go up to Parker and ask for it. The council is in the process of creating a school store where this merchandise can be purchased much more accessibly.

Another thing Athletic Council is really good at is bridging the gap between the student's opinion and what Mr. Parker and the

"I think the school thinks we do a lot less than we actually do. We get up early to go to meeting or sacrifice our office hours and we try to give Parker a fair perspective on what athletes think."

-Ryan Kerrigan

administration think is right. An example of this would be the new crack-down on team spirit. "I hope to create some breathing room for student athlete's team spirit," says senior Ryan Kerrigan (If you wish to read more about the schools new policy for team spirit see the October 8th, 2013 addition of Mouth of the River). Athletic Council creates a good system for students to voice their own opinions regarding the school's sports. This way athletes can go to

council members and talk to their peers about the is-

raising events at ORHS.

The Athletic Council has actually been around for eight years before it switched hands. "I inherited it from Mr. Maynard who was the leader at the time," said Parker. Previous-

is something we talk about, fan behavior, so on and so forth." The planned fundraisers for this year are the Summer Sarno Classic Whiffle Ball Tournament which raises money for the scholarship in honor of Matt Sarno. They also plan the Penguin Plunge

issues they see in their sports program and they do not have to feel intimidated in doing so. If you are interested in being a part of this group of dedicated student athletes you can contact Corey Parker about joining the Athletic Council staff.



An early morning Athletic Council meeting.